



**Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**  
**2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower**  
**Atlanta, GA 30334**

Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

**Date:** 2/2/2026

**VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:50 AM **Departure:** 12:10 PM

**FR-000011385**

**Hughes, Brenda K.**

18484 MORGAN ROAD Arlington, GA 39813 Calhoun County  
(229) 725-4646

Regional Consultant

Angela Williams-Jackson

Phone: (404) 710-3984

Fax: (678) 717-5765

angela.williams-jackson@decals.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                  |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02/02/2026                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07/24/2025                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/06/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                    |                  |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Ratio Capacity                                            |                  |               |      |             |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| Age Ranges                                                | Children Present | Child For Pay | CAPS | Not for Pay | Provider Children |
| Infant (0-11 mos)                                         | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 1 & 2 Years                                               | 6                | 4             | 0    | 2           | 0                 |
| 3 & 4 Years                                               | 2                | 1             | 0    | 1           | 0                 |
| School Age(5+) Years                                      | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 13 Years                                      | 8                | 5             | 0    | 3           | 0                 |
| Total Under 18 Years                                      | 8                |               |      |             |                   |
| Children Present: 8 Total Children: 8                     |                  |               |      |             |                   |
| Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1 |                  |               |      |             |                   |

**Comments**

The Provider was left with citations on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

Any rule violation which subjects a child to injury or life-threatening situation or any rule violations previously cited but not corrected, may result in the imposition of an adverse enforcement action. Serious or continued noncompliance may also jeopardize participation in one or more DECAL program(s).

Please refer to the website, <http://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> , for information regarding October 1, 2018 rule changes about Criminal Records Checks that may affect your facility. In summary,

- New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the child care industry
- New clearance is required at least once every five years
- Any staff member solely responsible for supervising children will be required to have completed a comprehensive background clearance
- All staff members are required to have completed at least a national fingerprint based clearance check
- Any staff member with only the national fingerprint based clearance, must be under constant and direct supervision of a staff member with a satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee

O.C.G.A. Section 42.1.12(i)(2) requires Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to notify licensed child care programs on accessing and retrieving from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) website a list of the names and addresses of all registered sexual offenders. Please see GBI's website located at <http://gbi.georgia.gov> to access the Georgia Sex Offender Registry.

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#### Refutation Process:

You have the right to refute any of the citations noted in this report with which you disagree. To refute a citation(s), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the user id for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

Your refutation will be forwarded to the appropriate CCS manager, who will follow up with you about your concerns. If you have any questions about this process, contact our office at 404-657-5562.

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Bright from the Start recommends that all licensed child care providers carry liability insurance coverage sufficient to protect its clients. If you do not have this liability insurance, you are required to post a notice with ½ inch letters in a conspicuous location in the program, notify the parent or guardian of each child in care in writing, obtain their signature to acknowledge receipt and maintain this written acknowledgment on file at the program at all times while the child attends the program and for 12 months after the child's last date of attendance. (O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-4)

#### Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

**Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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### Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

#### Activities and Equipment

290-2-3-.12 Equipment and Supplies(CR)

Met

**Comment**

Toys and equipment observed to be clean and safe from hazardous conditions.

290-2-3-.19 Infant-Sleeping Safety Requirements(CR)

Not Evaluated

**Comment**

Currently the provider is not caring for infants. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

290-2-3-.07 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

**Comment**

Home does not provide swimming activities.

#### Children's Records

**Finding**

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) requires that the Family Child Care Learning Home have policies and procedures which shall include written procedures for the following:

1. Behavior management and discipline techniques; actions used by the Home, to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care;
2. Handling emergency medical care, including where the Children will be taken for emergency medical care;
3. Administering medication and recording noticeable adverse reactions to medication;
4. Notifying Parents in writing of their Child's illness, injury, and exposure to a notifiable communicable disease or any cases or suspected cases of viruses or illnesses (COVID-19, etc.) identified during a public health emergency, within twenty-four (24) hours after the Home becomes aware of the illness or the next working day;
5. Noticeable adverse reaction to medication(s);
6. Exclusion of sick children;
7. Exclusion and readmission of children with communicable diseases, as defined on the most current version of the communicable diseases chart, as found on the Department's website, or with cases or suspected cases of viruses or illnesses (COVID-19, etc.) identified during a public health emergency;
8. Protection of children in the event of severe weather, fire, and physical plant problems, such as power failure, that affect climate control, loss of water, or structural damages;
9. The transportation of Children to and from school or Home, if provided, to include the procedure to be followed if no one is home to receive the transported Child;
10. Identification of others providing care. The Provider must inform the Parents of Children in care of the names of any caregiver and their responsibilities, and the names of the persons who would be called upon in an emergency;
11. Parents' ability to visit the Family Child Care Learning Home unannounced and at any time that their Child is in care;
12. Any information requested by the Parent concerning the operation of the Family Child Care Learning Home or the care of the Child, including but not limited to a description of any special procedures to be followed in caring for the Child, such as any special services which the Home agrees to provide to a Child with special needs. The Parent(s) will be provided daily communication (verbal/written) regarding the care of the Child, especially with infants, toddlers and nonverbal Children. Additionally, the Provider must bring special problems or significant developments to the Parent's attention as soon as they arise;
13. Notification of the existence of a firearm in the Family Child Care Learning Home;
14. Notification of any changes in the regular composition of the household. The Provider must notify the Parent(s) of anyone regularly on the premises, including but not limited to spouse, friend(s), relative(s), or significant other(s);
15. Notification of the existence of any pets or other animals residing in the Home or on the property of the Family Child Care Learning Home; and
16. Notification of infant sleep position practices. The Provider must notify Parent(s) of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) risk reduction practices, sleep positioning policies, and arrangements for placing all infants on their backs for sleep. 17. A description of the practices followed by the Home to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

It was determined based on a review of records that the Provider did not have evidence of policy and procedures updated regarding practices followed by the Home to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age and expulsion and suspension of enrolled children as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will add the missing documentation to the written policies and procedures and will update policies and procedures as changes occur in the operation of the Home.

**Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026**

**290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)**

Met

**Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained and completed.

|                 |
|-----------------|
| <b>Facility</b> |
|-----------------|

**290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

Met

**Comment**

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

**290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)****Met****Comment**

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards.

**290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.13(2)(a) requires that outdoor play areas be kept clean and free of hazards such as exposed sharp corners of concrete or equipment, rust and splinters on equipment, broken glass, open drainage ditches, holes and stagnant water. It was determined based on observation that there was a green metal container labeled "Danger and Flammable" hanging across the back fence of the playground accessible to children that posed a safety hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will repair any and all identified outdoor hazards and will monitor playground daily or more often as needed to ensure that the Home's outdoor play area is kept clean and free of hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 2/12/2026**

**Health and Hygiene****290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

**290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.11(1)(f) requires diapers to be changed in the Child's own crib or on a nonporous surface which is cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single use disposable towel after each diaper change. It was determined based on observation that the white changing pad was porous with a tear on the right side of the pad that posed a cross contamination hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

To ensure the control of disease transmission, the Home Provider will change diapers in the child's crib or a nonporous surface. The diapering surface will be cleaned and disinfected between use with a single use disposable towel.

**Correction Deadline: 2/2/2026**

**290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed.

**Licensure****290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Appropriate number of children observed in the Family Child Care Learning Home on this date. Consultant observed appropriate no-compensation forms for three children enrolled, verified only eight are in attendance daily, and discussed that no more than 12 children may be in care at any given time.

**Safety and Discipline****290-2-3-.11 Animals****Met****Comment**

Appropriate vaccination records were available on this date.

**290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

The provider and/or the home's employee were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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| <b>290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Complete first aid kit observed in the Family Child Care Learning Home.

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|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

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|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after the last visit. Provider stated that there have been no new hires since the last visit.

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|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|

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|                                           |            |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.