



**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:** 3/11/2026 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:10 AM **Departure:** 11:30 AM

**FR-68101**

**Molden, Valencia N**

187 Marcey Dr Thomaston, GA 30286 Upson County  
(404) 587-1049

Application Services Unit Consultant

Lauren Stewart

Phone: (229) 317-5612

Fax: (229) 317-5697

lauren.stewart@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

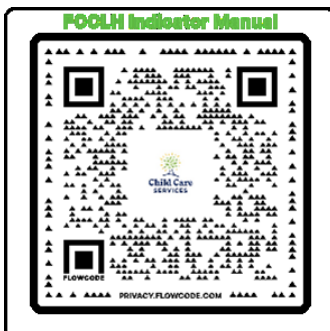
| Compliance Zone Designation |                         |               | Compliance Zone Designation - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient.                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/11/2026                  | Initial Licensing Study | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                             |                         |               | <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. |

| 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                                                                                        | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 3 & 4 Years                                                                                        | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| School Age(5+) Years                                                                               | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 13 Years                                                                               | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 18 Years                                                                               | 0                |               |      |             |                   |
| Children Present: 0 Total Children: 0<br>Caregivers/Helpers Present: 0 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0 |                  |               |      |             |                   |

**Comments**

The child care program received a final license on this date. The provider does not carry liability insurance.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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 userid 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 Initial 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.

**Comment**

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Currently the provider is not caring for infants. Consultant observed the correct amount of cots/mats, sheets and covers on this date

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

Home does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

**Children's Records**

**290-2-3-.08 Children's Records**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) - New - Discussed updating the Home's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Home. Also discussed to ensure 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. Additional information can be found in the FCCLH Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

**Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026**

**Facility**

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

Discussed emergency drill procedures and documentation with Provider on this date.

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

**Comment**

An operable and appropriately sized fire extinguisher was observed in the home this date.

**Comment**

Operable smoke detector(s) were observed as required in the home this date.

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

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards.

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**290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Comment**

The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.13(2)(d) - Please ensure the fence measures four feet or taller and that there are no gaps exceeding three and a half inches.

**Correction Deadline: 3/11/2026**

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff were discussed with the provider on this date.

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**290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed.

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**Licensure**

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

Final License will be issued upon completion of the Exit Conference. The overall licensed capacity is six (6) children at any given time.

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**Safety and Discipline**

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

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. Consultant discussed appropriate discipline and guidance techniques with the provider.

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**290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit****Met****Comment**

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

**Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the provider decides to incorporate transportation. The provider will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hour transportation training prior to transporting children.

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete. Two records were observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file for the provider and all residents living in the home seventeen (17) years and older.

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.07(5) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

**Correction Deadline: 3/12/2026**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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

**Comment**

Currently there are no children present in the program. Consultant discussed ratios with the Provider on this date.

**Comment**

Currently there are no children present in the program. Consultant discussed direct supervision with the Provider on this date. A supervision plan was created for the route from the home to the outside play area on this date.