



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: 12/3/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:55 PM **Departure:** 2:45 PM

FR-000012799
McFarland, Dinhi L
213 Breckenridge Drive Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County
(229) 269-3530

Regional Consultant
Kayla Coats
Phone: (470) 676-8185
Fax:
kayla.coats@decal.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. Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. Support - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. Deficient - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
12/03/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/25/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/12/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

Ratio Capacity					
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	1	0	0	1	0
1 & 2 Years	4	1	0	3	0
3 & 4 Years	4	4	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	9	5	0	4	0
Total Under 18 Years	9				
Children Present: 9 Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3					
Total Children: 9 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 3					

Comments

A copy of the visit report was left with the Provider 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.

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 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.

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 for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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

Summary Report

Date: 12/3/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:55 PM **Departure:** 2:45 PM

FR-000012799

McFarland, Dinhi L

213 Breckenridge Drive Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County
(229) 269-3530

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

Phone: (470) 676-8185

Fax:

kayla.coats@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Met

Comment

A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

Comment

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

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.19(1)(a)3 - Please ensure that all Pack N Play sheets are tight fitting.

Correction Deadline: 12/3/2025

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

N/A

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) - 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.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>

Correction Deadline: 12/3/2025

	Facility
--	----------

290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)
Not Met
Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(f) requires that poisons, medicines, cleaning agents and other hazardous materials be in locked areas or inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that several packs of child wipes were located on the changing table in reach of the children. It was further determined that a toilet brush was stored next to the toilet in the children's restroom and within reach of the children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure the safe storage of hazardous items, the Home Provider will make these items inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 12/3/2025

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)
Met

Correction Deadline: 4/4/2024

Corrected on 12/3/2025

.13(2)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Exposed tree roots had been spray painted a bright color in order to become more visible to the children in care.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2024

Corrected on 12/3/2025

.13(2)(d) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The wooden fencing along the playground had been repaired.

	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)
Met
Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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 Family Child Care Learning Home this date.

Safety and Discipline**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.

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Met****Comment**

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

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

290-2-3-.07 Staff Training**Defer****Defer**

290-2-3-.07(9)- Annual training requirements will be deferred until the next licensing study in calendar year 2026.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will obtain the required annual training for Staff and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

Correction Deadline: 4/24/2024

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR)**Met****Comment**

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.