



**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:** 11/3/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 9:40 AM **Departure:** 10:35 AM

**FR-9900104110**  
**Stephon, Debra L**  
1454 HICKORY STREET Canton, GA 30115 Cherokee County  
(770) 345-6290

Regional Consultant  
Randy Gaytan  
Phone: (770) 357-7022  
Fax: (770) 357-7021  
randy.gaytan@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** No

| <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. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/03/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 06/16/2025                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09/19/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                    |                  |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| <b>Ratio Capacity</b>                                     |                  |               |      |             |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| Age Ranges                                                | Children Present | Child For Pay | CAPS | Not for Pay | Provider Children |
| Infant (0-11 mos)                                         | 1                | 1             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 1 & 2 Years                                               | 4                | 3             | 0    | 2           | 0                 |
| 3 & 4 Years                                               | 1                | 2             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| School Age(5+) Years                                      | 0                | 0             | 0    | 1           | 0                 |
| Total Under 13 Years                                      | 6                | 6             | 0    | 3           | 0                 |
| Total Under 18 Years                                      | 6                |               |      |             |                   |
| Children Present: 6 Total Children: 9                     |                  |               |      |             |                   |
| Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2 |                  |               |      |             |                   |

## Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Visit.

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/>.

Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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.dec.al.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 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@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.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

A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

N/A

Comment

There is no pool on the property

Children's Records

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

Met

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Home observed complete emergency drills

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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|                                                             |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards.

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|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

**Comment**

Home does not provide swimming activities.

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|--|---------------------|
|  | <b>Food Service</b> |
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|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.10 Food Service &amp; Nutrition</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk 2 of 5 Components for snack Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers. The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website: DECAL <http://decalfga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx> USDA <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

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|--|---------------------------|
|  | <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
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|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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|                                                        |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas &amp; Practices(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

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|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
|  | <b>Licensure</b> |
|--|------------------|

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|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Appropriate number of children observed in Family Child Care Learning Home this date.

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|--|------------------------------|
|  | <b>Safety and Discipline</b> |
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|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Animals</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

The Family Child Care Learning Home does not keep animals on premises.

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|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|

**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> |
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**Comment**

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

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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**290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR****Met****Comment**

Evidence observed that the Provider was certified in pediatric First Aid and CPR on this date.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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

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

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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

The Provider was observed directly supervising and being attentive to the needs of the children.