



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: 7/15/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 12:25 PM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

FR-16038

Dawson, Mary L

2015 EVANS TRACE Cordele, GA 31015 Crisp County
(229) 273-4353

Regional Consultant

Angela Williams-Jackson

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Mailing Address

2015 EVANS TRACE
CORDELE, GA 31015

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
07/15/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/04/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/29/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

<u>Ratio Capacity</u>					
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	1	1	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	0	0	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	1	2	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	2	3	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	2				
Children Present: 2 Total Children: 3 Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments

The Consultant discussed the Chop, Look, Listen information with the Provider. The Provider received a repeat citation for not updating the policy with shaken baby syndrome and suspension and expulsion of children regarding behavior management.

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.decal.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

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!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

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 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: 7/22/2026

Recited on 7/15/2026

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2026

Corrected on 7/15/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The Provider's drills were documented and current.

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

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards.

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)	Met
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Comment

The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

Health and Hygiene

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed.

Licensure

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

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

Safety and Discipline

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

Age-appropriate discussion and redirection observed.

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

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

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR(CR)	Met
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Correction Deadline: 3/6/2026

Corrected on 7/15/2026

The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The provider had evidence of current certification on file.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Defer

Evaluation of the previous citation was deferred on this date to the next regulatory visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Provider will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours of on-going child development and health and safety related topics and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/6/2026

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.