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: 12/10/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 1:30 PM **Departure:** 5:15 PM

FR-9900108246
Portugal, Maria D
730 WINDSOR RD Savannah, GA 31419 Chatham County
(912) 224-0480

Regional Consultant
Rebecca Owsley
Phone: (229) 238-2130
Fax:
rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/10/2025	Monitoring Visit	Support
06/04/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
12/10/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing

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.

Ratio Capacity

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	9	9	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	0	2	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	1	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	10	13	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	10				

Children Present: 10
Total Children: 13
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2

More than 6 for pay
6 for pay present & no-pay present does not have a notorized no-pay statement

Comments
The Consultant conducted the exit conference with the Provider on this date.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 12/24/2025

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
A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

290-2-3-.19 Infant-Sleeping Safety Requirements(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.19(1)(a)3 requires that each crib and other equipment approved for infant sleep shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that the sheet in one pack-n-play that was used by a 1-year-old child for nap was not tight-fitting as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2025

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2025

Corrected on 12/10/2025
.19(2) - The previous citation was obseved corrected on this date. The Consultant did not observe any objects in the cribs or pack-n-plays where infants slept.

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

Comment
Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 13 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5**

Child # 3 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 4 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 6 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 10 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 11 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

290-2-3-.08 Children's Records **Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Corrected on 12/10/2025
.08(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. A review or records showed that the Provider had a current and updated record for each enrolled child.

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Corrected on 12/10/2025
.08(11) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. A review of records showed that the Provider had a notice of No Liability Insurance included in each file for all enrolled children.

Finding
290-2-3-.08(13) requires documentation for the care of children, related and unrelated, for whom no pay is received to include a notarized statement from the Parent(s) attesting to the non-pay status. It was determined based on a review of records that Child #5 and Child #7, that the Provider stated were for no pay, did not have a completed notarized statement from the Parent(s) attesting to the non-pay status as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

Finding
290-2-3-.08(2) requires the Home to maintain a file for each Child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations; enrollment in the Home may not continue for more than 30 days without such evidence. It was determined based on a review of records that Child #3, #4, #6, #10 and #11 did not have evidence of current immunizations or a signed affidavit on file.

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2025

Recited on 12/10/2025

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Corrected on 12/10/2025
.08(4) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. A review of records showed that the Provider maintained a file for each Child that included known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which would limit the Child's participation in the program.

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.08(8)(a) - 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.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: https://dontshake.org/.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 6/11/2025

Corrected on 12/10/2025
.08(3) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. A review of records showed that the Provider had obtained Parental authorization for emergency medical care when the Parent is not available for all children enrolled in the program.

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.

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**

Comment
The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the Home.

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

Comment
Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.04(1)(d) requires a person that provides care for more than six children for pay, related or unrelated, as defined in these rules, shall make application to the Department for a license to operate a Child Care Learning Center, except as provided in 290-2-3-.07(15). It was determined based on a review of records that there were ten children present for pay on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

Safety and Discipline

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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
Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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.

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 **Met**

Comment
290-2-3-.07(10) - New - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 12/15/2025

Comment
290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - New - 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.

Correction Deadline: 1/9/2026

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.07(16) requires the Home to ensure that the total number of Children not Related to the Provider in the Family Child Care Learning Home, for pay or not for pay, cannot exceed six Children, except that a Provider may care for two additional children who are three years of age or older for two designated one hour periods daily upon approval by the Department. It was determined based on observation and a review of records that there were eight Children not related to the Provider in the Family Child Care Learning Home, for pay, during the entire visit on this date.

Correction Deadline: 12/20/2025

Finding
290-2-3-.07(19) requires the Home to ensure that an Employee or Provisional Employee, who must be at least sixteen (16) years of age, must be present to assist with supervision whenever more than three (3) children under the age of twelve (12) months are present, more than six (6) children under the age of three (3) years are present or more than eight (8) children under the age of five (5) years are present. It was determined based on observation that the Provider's spouse, the assistant, left at 4:15 p.m., which left the Provider alone with ten children when an assistant was required for when there are eight children present under the age of 5 years old.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2025

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.