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: 9/9/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 12:30 PM **Departure:** 2:15 PM

FR-000002710
Sims, Bobbie P
123 ANDREWS DRIVE Americus, GA 31719 Sumter County
(229) 924-2229

Regional Consultant
Charlene Story
Phone: (770) 405-7942
Fax: (770) 408-0759
charlene.story@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/09/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing
02/25/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
09/18/2024	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)	0	0	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	3	3	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	4	4	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	4				

Children Present: 4
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2
Total Children: 4
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

Comments
Children files, emergency drills and other required items were available for the Consultant to review.

An exit conference discussing the Licensing Study report was conducted with the Provider on this date. An email with the Licensing Study report attached was sent to the Provider for signature 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 techincal 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
Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured on this date.

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

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) **Met**

Comment
Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 4 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

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

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

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

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 review of children's records 2 out of 4 (Child #2 and Child #3) children had an expired immunization record in their file for the consultant to review.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.08(8)(a) - 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: 9/9/2025

Facility

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

Finding
290-2-3-.11(2)(c) requires that documentation of drills required by these rules shall be maintained in the Home. The Home shall conduct drills for fire, tornado, and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Home shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on review of emergency drills a fire drill was not conducted in August of 2025. In addition, a tornado or lock down drill had not been completed for the first part of the year 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Provider will develop and implement a plan and schedule for conducting the required drills, completing the documentation, keeping the documentation on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

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) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.13(2)(a) requires that outdoor play areas be kept clean and free of hazards such as exposed sharp corners of concrete or equipment, rust and splinters on equipment, broken glass, open drainage ditches, holes and stagnant water. It was determined based on observation vines and weed growing through the back fence by the climbing equipment. In addition the Consultant observed a sign leaning against the house with stakes bent upwards.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will repair any and all identified outdoor hazards and will monitor playground daily or more often as needed to ensure that the Home's outdoor play area is kept clean and free of hazards.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.13(2)(b) - Consultant discussed with the Provider to remove any play equipment that is in need of repair from the playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/19/2025

Finding
290-2-3-.13(2)(d) requires that outside play areas be protected from traffic or other hazards by fencing or other barriers at least four feet in height and approved by the Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children. A fence shall be provided around swimming pools to make them inaccessible when not in use. It was determined based on observation, the bolts around the gate entering the playground measured longer than 2 thread lengths.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will enclose the outside play area(s) with a four-foot high fence or other Department-approved barrier and inspect regularly to ensure fencing material is safe and any hazards identified are repaired or replaced. The Home will install or repair a fence around swimming pools that makes them inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/16/2025

Food Service

290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition **Met**

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://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx USDA http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands before eating lunch.

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

Comment
The provider stated appropriate 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) **Met**

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

Safety and Discipline

290-2-3-.11 Animals **Met**

Comment
Animals maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment
Please replace or add missing or expired items in the first aid kit.

290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Comment
The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.11(2)(m) - Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure an Emergency Medical Form is completed by the Parent in order for children to ride in the Provider's personal vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

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 **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(8)(b) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that Homes must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training present during field trips, transportation of children, and on the Home’s premises whenever any Child is present.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

290-2-3-.07 Independent Contractors(CR) **Met**

Comment
The facility does not currently have any independent contractors employed.

290-2-3-.07 Other Staff Direct Contact with Children(CR) **Met**

Comment
The facility does not currently have any additional staff employed.

290-2-3-.07 Provisional Employees **Met**

Comment
Observed compliance with the local zoning authorities, fire safety agencies and local building authorities on this date.

290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR) **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
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: 9/14/2025

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

290-2-3-.07 Staff Training **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - Consultant discussed with the Provider that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices.

Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.07(9)(b)2.(i) - (iv) - Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure 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: 10/9/2025

290-2-3-.07 Students-in-Training(CR) **Met**

Comment
The facility does not currently have any students-in-training employed.

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

Comment
The facility does not currently have any volunteers employed.

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.