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: 9/24/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 3:10 PM **Departure:** 4:45 PM

FR-66556
Gaither, Deborah
2017 Juanita Street Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County
(404) 786-3037

Child Care Services Manager
Tahishe Smith
Phone: (706) 340-6383
Fax:
tahishe.smith@decal.ga.gov
Joint with: Tiffany Hill

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/24/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
12/19/2025	ILS with Final License Date	Good Standing
10/27/2025	Initial 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

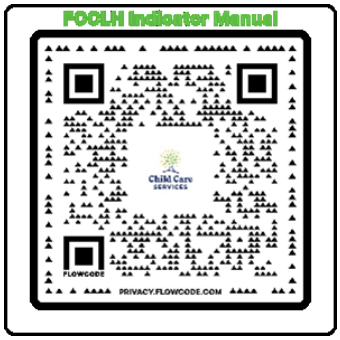
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	0	0	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	0	0	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	0	0	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	1	1	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	1	1	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	1				

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

Data retrieval failed for the subreport, 'RatioCapacity', located at: Koala.Reports.Visits.RDLC.RatioCapacity.rdlc.

Comments
Today's visit was a Monitoring Visit. There was one child enrolled and present on this date.

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.



For additional information regarding the full compliance inspection results of this program or any licensed program in the state, access the Child Care Services Compliance-at-a Glance website by scanning this QR code or visiting: https://families.decal.ga.gov.

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) **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
There is no pool on the property

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 there were several hazardous items underneath the sink in the bathroom such as alcohol, peroxide, toothpaste, mouthwash.

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: 9/24/2026

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**

Correction Deadline: 11/11/2025

Corrected on 9/24/2026
.13(2)(a) - The Provider uses the front yard and walkway to the backyard to the play area. There were no hazards observed using this route. The playground is enclosed by a separate 3.5 inch fencing barrier.

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 that the fence on the backside of the play area fence needed replacement or repair as it was leaning and in some places detached from the bar. Additionally, there was a gap near the entrance gate to the playground that measured 1 feet and 1 inch wide that would allow a child to leave the playground area.

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.

Correction Deadline: 10/30/2026

Recited on 9/24/2026

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **N/A**

Comment
There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program.

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

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
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.11(2)(k) requires that when transported in a vehicle by the Provider or a Home's employee, children shall be restrained by either individual seat belts or appropriate child restraints in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations. It was determined based on observation and discussion, the Provider transported a 4-year-old child from his elementary school during afternoon pickup with a booster seat in the vehicle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will ensure the use of appropriate restraints for all children in care.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2026

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(CR) **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.

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

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

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

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