



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: 3/25/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 1:15 PM **Departure:** 2:35 PM

FR-14607

Hiller, Martha

35 COLDWATER WAY Covington, GA 30016 Newton County
(678) 342-6542

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

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Mailing Address

35 COLDWATER WAY
COVINGTON, GA 30016

Quality Rated: ★ ★

<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.
03/25/2026	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
02/09/2026	Complaint Closure	Support	
12/16/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	2	2	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	3	3	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	5	5	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	5				
Children Present: 5 Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3 Total Children: 5 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments

Background checks were reviewed.

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!



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

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Not Met

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Corrected on 3/25/2026

.08(1) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant observed records for all children in attendance on the day of the visit,

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2026

Corrected on 3/25/2026

.08(2) - The previous citation was corrected on this date. The consultant observed a current immunization record for child #5.

Finding

290-2-3-.08(8) requires that the Provider establish written policies and procedures, keep them current, make them consistent with applicable laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, regulations, and these rules, make them available to Parents and use them to govern the operation of the Family Child Care Learning Home. It was determined based on a review of records that the Home did not have a signed acknowledgment page from the parents in the children's files on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure current written policies and procedures are available and followed.

Correction Deadline: 3/25/2026

Recited on 3/25/2026

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Corrected on 3/25/2026

.08(9) - The previous citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The consultant observed that each child in attendance was sign in and out, March 3 through March 24, 2026.

Facility

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/16/2025

Corrected on 3/25/2026

.11(2)(f) - The Previous citation was corrected on this date. The consultant did not observe any hazardous material accessible to children.

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)

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 there was an active ant bed located on the left top side of the back yard.

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: 4/4/2026

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 fence gate on the left side of the lower play area would not latch. In addition, there was a seven inch gap between the fence gate and pole. This area is currently being use as the play space.

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: 3/28/2026

Recited on 3/25/2026

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

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.

Policies and Procedures

290-2-3-.14 Required Reporting**Met**

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Corrected on 3/25/2026

.14(3) - The previous citation corrected. Based on the director's statement all future reports will be made in 24 hours as required

Safety and Discipline

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

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

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Corrected on 3/25/2026

.21(1)(a) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant observed that staff # 1 had obtained a satisfactory criminal background check.

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Corrected on 3/25/2026

.21(1)(c) - The Previous citation was observed corrected on this date. The consultant observed that staff # 1 had obtained a satisfactory criminal background check.

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.

290-2-3-.07 Staff Training**Defer****Defer**

290-2-3-.07(9)(a)-Defer until Licensing Study.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will obtain the required annual training for Staff and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file or within the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS). The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

Correction Deadline: 9/20/2025

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/9/2026

Corrected on 3/25/2026

.07(16) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. Four children were observed.

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.