



**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:** 8:15 AM **Departure:** 9:30 AM

**FR-000002246**

**Harris, Maxine C**

301 FLINT DRIVE Montezuma, GA 31063 Macon County  
(478) 244-6193

Regional Consultant

Brandi Mangino

Phone: (478) 314-9726

Fax: (478) 599-0169

brandi.mangino@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                  |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09/09/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 05/05/2025                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/26/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                    |                  |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| <b>Ratio Capacity</b>                                     |                  |               |      |             |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| 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                | 4             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 3 & 4 Years                                               | 2                | 4             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| School Age(5+) Years                                      | 0                | 0             | 0    | 2           | 0                 |
| Total Under 13 Years                                      | 4                | 8             | 0    | 2           | 0                 |
| Total Under 18 Years                                      | 4                |               |      |             |                   |
| Children Present: 4 Total Children: 10                    |                  |               |      |             |                   |
| Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2 |                  |               |      |             |                   |

**Comments**

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

- The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather Watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

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.

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#### 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](http://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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



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Summary Report

Date: 9/9/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 8:15 AM Departure: 9:30 AM

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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

Toys and equipment observed to be clean and safe from hazardous conditions.

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

Met

Comment

Cleaning and disinfecting of cots discussed.

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

Please ensure that children are being signed out daily.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Home observed complete emergency drills

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible 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.

**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 that the following hazards were present on the playground:

pine cones

limbs

broken down equipment

brick and rock

In addition, the hazards the toys were in need of being cleaned.

**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**

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

Not Met

**Finding**

290-2-3-.10(8) requires that food be served according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking. Food shall not be accessible or served to children until it has been chopped, diced, cut or mashed and is appropriate for each child's age and individual eating, chewing and swallowing ability. It was determined based on a review of records that blueberries were being served to enrolled children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will train Staff and monitor food served and accessible to children to ensure that the food does not present a choking hazard.

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025**

**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)**

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)**

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.

**Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

**Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 3****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Annual Training 10 Hours -.07(9),CPR/First Aid -.07(8),Helper Orientation-.07(5)

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

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Provider stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

**290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR****Not Met****Correction Deadline: 5/5/2025****Corrected on 9/9/2025****.07(8) - See new citation.****Finding**

290-2-3-.07(8)(a) requires the Home to maintain for the Provider and any Provisional Employee or Employee with direct care responsibilities current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid which have been offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers. Such training must be completed prior to initial licensure for the Provider and within 45 days from date of hire for Provisional Employees and Employees. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the Home's premises. It was determined based on a review of files that the helper did not have first aid and CPR on file.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will obtain the required pediatric CPR and first aid training and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested. The Home will ensure that there is always a Staff person on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present.

**Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025****290-2-3-.07 Provider Qualifications****Not Met****Technical Assistance**

Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2025****Finding**

290-2-3-.07(5) requires that prior to assignment to children or task, the Provider and all Employees ( i.e., Volunteers, Students-in-Training, Independent Contractors, etc.) and Provisional Employees must receive initial program orientation. It was determined based on a review of records that the provider did not have orientation paperwork on file for the helper.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will ensure that all Staff have completed the required orientation training and will ensure any new Staff hired complete orientation training as required.

**Correction Deadline: 9/10/2025****290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Finding**

290-2-3-.07(7)(a)-(j) requires that the Provider, Employees and Provisional Employees with direct care responsibilities shall complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: (a) prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); (b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; (c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; (d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; (e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; (f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; (g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); (h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; (i) precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and (j) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that the provider did not have health and safety orientation on file for the helper.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Provider will complete the required training and will ensure any Employees or Provisional Employees complete the training. The Provider will develop a plan to ensure that any new Staff hired complete the training as required.

**Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025**

**Defer**

290-2-3-.07(9)-Citation will be deferred until the first regulatory visit of 2026 as the provider has until December 31, 2025 to complete annual training for the year.

**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. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025**

**Technical Assistance**

Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

**Correction Deadline: 10/9/2025**

**Technical Assistance**

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: 10/9/2025**

**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.