**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:** 6/3/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 12:00 PM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

**FR-9900104090**
**Dennis, Marsha L**
798 SHEPPARD COVE Stone Mountain, GA 30083 DeKalb County
(770) 469-1988

Regional Consultant
Maryn Accord
Phone: ()
Fax: Maryn Accord
maryn.accord@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

| Compliance Zone Designation | | |
|---|---|---|
| 06/03/2026 | Licensing Study | Good Standing |
| 01/29/2026 | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |
| 06/05/2025 | 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** | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **School Age(5+) Years** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total Under 13 Years** | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total Under 18 Years** | 3 | | | | |

Children Present: 3
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 4
Total Children: 3
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

**Comments**
Staff records and child records were reviewed. Core Rules and Non-Core Rules were evaluated.

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.

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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 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 for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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**Summary Report**

**Date:** 6/3/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 12:00 PM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

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**The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:**

## Activities and Equipment

**290-2-3-.12 Equipment and Supplies(CR)** **Not Met**

**Finding**
290-2-3-.12(5) requires all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment shall be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint and kept clean. It was determined, based on observation, that the white and green kitchen playset, located in the back right corner of the playground, was not kept clean with presence of dirt and debris on this date.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**
The Home will repair or replace any identified hazardous or unclean equipment and will monitor all indoor and outdoor equipment to ensure it is free from hazards and kept clean.

**Correction Deadline: 6/12/2026**

**Technical Assistance**
290-2-3-.12(7) requires all indoor and outdoor furniture and equipment shall be secured if equipment and furniture is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. Potentially unstable equipment and furniture that might injure a child if not secured include, but are not limited to, televisions, chests of drawers, bookcases, shelving, cabinets and fish tanks. Examples of items not required to be secured include, but are not limited to, child-sized tables and chairs, rocking chairs, and cribs. The Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure that cots were stored in a position to prevent tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over that could cause injury, as required.

**Correction Deadline: 6/3/2026**

**290-2-3-.19 Infant-Sleeping Safety Requirements(CR)** **N/A**

**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)** **N/A**

**Comment**
There is no pool on the property

## Children's Records

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

**Technical Assistance**
290-2-3-.08(12) requires that documentation for the care of related children in the Home, other than the Providers own children, include a notarized statement of family relationships by the Parent(s). The Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure that a notarized statement was kept on file indicating that a related child was kept for care in the Home, as required.

**Correction Deadline: 6/3/2026**

## Facility

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

**Technical Assistance**
290-2-3-.11(2)(f) requires that poisons, medicines, cleaning agents and other hazardous materials be in locked areas or inaccessible to children. The Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure that items labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children" were stored inaccessible to children, as required.

**Correction Deadline: 6/3/2026**

**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**

**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 a observation, the outdoor play area had uneven surfacing between the sidewalk and the mulched area, located in the back right corner of the playground area, creating a potential tripping hazard. It was further determined that stagnant water was observed in the orange wheel barrow toy, located on the right-side of the playground, and in the sink of the white and green kitchen playset, located in the back right corner of the playground, creating a potential safety hazard on this date. It was also determined that screen installed in front of the central air conditioning unit measured 2 feet and 6 inches in height on this date, when 4 feet in height was required.

**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: 6/19/2026**

## Health and Hygiene

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

**Comment**
Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

**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)** **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. The Consultant observed two unrelated children for pay and one related child for pay present on this date.

## 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)** **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(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**
Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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

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