



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: 8/4/2026

VisitType: Initial Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:35 AM Departure: 1:15 PM

FR-68679

Simmons, Sharon W

414 Poinciana Ave Albany, GA 31705 Dougherty County
(478) 251-7659

Application Services Unit Consultant

Lauren Stewart

Phone: (470) 521-3484

Fax:

lauren.stewart@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
08/04/2026	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing	
			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	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	0				
Children Present: 0 Total Children: 0 Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

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

Comments

Final License was issued on this date. The Provider does not carry liability insurance.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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@dec.al.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 Initial Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

290-2-3-.12 Equipment and Supplies(CR)

Technical Assistance

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.12(7) - Please ensure that all furniture is anchored securely to prevent tipping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2026

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

Met

Comment

Center does not plan to serve infants and no cribs were evaluated on this date. Consultant observed the correct amount of cots/mats, sheets and covers on this date.

290-2-3-.07 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site. Water related activities discussed with provider.

Children's Records

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) - 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.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 8/4/2026

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

Met

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

Comment

The outside area appeared clean and well maintained. No play structures were observed on this date.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.13(2)(b) - Please ensure all equipment is anchored appropriately including shade structures.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2026

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 that the fence measure 46 inches along the right side of the playground, 47 inches along the front side, and 47 inches along the left side; fences should measure at least 48 inches per rules and regulations. Gaps measuring four inches were observed under the two large gates on the front side playground fence, as well as a gap in the back side of the playground fence measuring 5 and 1/2 inches. Additionally, splintering wood was observed along the back side of the playground fence.

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: 8/25/2026

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

Met

Comment

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff were discussed with the provider on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures. Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Provider on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Provider does not plan to administer medication. Consultant discussed with provider medication documentation and procedures required should the provider plan to administer medication in the future.

Licensure

290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)**Met****Comment**

Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date. Final License will be issued upon completion of the Exit Conference. The overall licensed capacity is six (6) children over the age of 12 months at any given time. The Provider will submit a business license to the Consultant once received from the appropriate authorities after obtaining a child care license from the Department of Early Care and Learning at the completion of the Exit Conference.

Safety and Discipline**290-2-3-.11 Animals****Met****Comment**

Aquatic life maintained clean and appropriately caged.

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

Consultant discussed appropriate discipline and guidance techniques with the provider.

290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)**N/A****Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the provider decides to incorporate transportation. The provider will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hour transportation training prior to transporting children.

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete. Two (2) of two records were observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file for the provider and all residents living in the home seventeen (17) years and older.

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. Consultant 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.

290-2-3-.07 Provider Qualifications**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.07(5) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/5/2026

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**Met****Comment**

290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - : 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: 9/3/2026

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

Comment

Currently there are no children present in the program. Consultant discussed ratios with the Provider on this date.

Comment

Currently there are no children present in the program. Consultant discussed direct supervision with the Provider on this date. A supervision plan was created for the route from the home to the playground.