



**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:** 8/26/2019    **VisitType:** Technical Assistance    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 11:30 AM

**CCLC-16270**

**Cotton's Learning Center of Serenity**

3423 Peach Orchard Road Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County  
 (706) 798-1221 cottonstroop80@aol.com

**Regional Consultant**

Mari M. Springs  
 Phone: (706) 434-7652  
 Fax: (706) 434-7651  
 mari.springs@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
07/31/2019	Monitoring Visit	Support	
02/08/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/14/2018	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes				
First Level	Left		0	0		16	C	NA	NA					
First Level	Middle Left		0	0		13	C	NA	NA					
First Level	Middle Right		0	0		20	C	NA	NA					
First Level	Right		0	0		20	C	NA	NA					
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			69			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0					
Second Level	5 years		0	0		0	C	NA	NA					
Second Level	School Age		0	0		15	C	NA	NA					
Second Level	Special 1		0	0		0	C	NA	NA					
Second Level	Special 2		0	0		0	C	NA	NA					
Second Level	Special 3		0	0		0	C	NA	NA					
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			15			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0					
Total # Children this Date: 0			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.:			168			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.:			0		

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
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## Comments

Technical Assistance Consultant completed an Initial Technical Assistance Visit on this date with the director/owner. Consultant discussed with the director the TA Agreement Form, Technical Assistance Policies and Procedures, compliance system, the center's compliance level, DECAL KOALA, and previous citations.

Director agreed to participate in technical assistance. A signed/dated copy of the TA Agreement was obtained on 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.

### 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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov).

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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 New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

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Donna Cotton, Program Official

Date

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Mari M. Springs, Consultant

Date



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Atlanta, GA 30334

Phone: (404)657-5562 www.dec.state.ga.gov

**Date:** 1/1/0001

**Purpose:**

**Arrival:**

**Departure:**

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**Consultant**

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County