



**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:** 3/15/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 1:00 PM

**Departure:** 2:00 PM

**FR-000001127**

**Jones, Abigail**

1617 EUCLID STREET Valdosta, GA 31602 Lowndes County  
(229) 242-7219 aby@mchsi.com

**Mailing Address**

1617 EUCLID STREET  
VALDOSTA, GA 31602

**Regional Consultant**

Neli Todorova

Phone: (770) 359-5167

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neli.todorova@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Kelly Wilson

**Quality Rated:** ★

Compliance Zone Designation			<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.
03/15/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/26/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/22/2020	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

**Ratios/License Capacity**

Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	1	1	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	3	5	0	1	0
3 & 4 Years	1	2	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total Under 13 Years</b>	5	8	0	2	0
<b>Total Under 18 Years</b>	5				
Children Present: 5 Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1					
Total Children: 10 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

**Comments**

An Administrative Review was conducted on March 15, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on March 15, 2021 with the Provider. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021 was reviewed during the virtual inspection. Additionally, Consultant discussed Rule changes that took effect on October 1, 2020 and emailed the Provider handouts with Frequently Asked Questions and related resources. Consultant e-mailed the provider a copy of the COVID-19 Guidance for Georgia Childcare Facilities, Interim Guidance as of December 14, 2020.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/15/2021

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 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://dec.state.ga.us/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.

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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 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.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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Abigail Jones, Program Official	Date
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Kelly Wilson, Consultant	Date
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Neli Todorova, Consultant	Date
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### Findings Report

**Date:** 3/15/2021 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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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**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

**Comment**

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.19(1)(a)3 - Discussed with the provider to ensure that the crib sheet is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

**Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Home does not provide swimming activities.

**Comment**

There is no pool on the property

### Children's Records

**Records Reviewed: 5****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

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

290-2-3-.08(1) - Please ensure that the children's enrollment records contain all required information. Consultant e-mailed the provider copies of the Family Child Care Learning Home Parent Handbook and FCCLH Policies and Procedures Guide Sample and printed copies are going to be delivered to the provider by the regional Coordinator.

**Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.08(11) - Please ensure that a signed No Liability Form is placed in each child's file. Consultant emailed the provider copies of the Family Child Care Learning Home Parent Handbook and FCCLH Policies and Procedures Guide Sample and printed copies are going to be delivered to the provider by the regional Coordinator.

**Correction Deadline: 3/15/2021****Facility****290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.11(2)(a) - Please ensure that the Emergency Preparedness Plan addresses all require topics. Consultant provided the most current plan template to the provider on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 3/25/2021****Comment**

290-2-3-.11(2)(c) - Discussed with provider to use the agency's most current drills form. Provided a copy of the form on March 15, 2021.

**Correction Deadline: 4/14/2021****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.11(2)(f) - Please be mindful to keep items such as toilet brush and personal toothbrushes that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

**Comment**

The provider reported no fire arms on this date.

**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. Smoke detectors were not able to be tested due to napping children. Discussed with provider to monitor smoke detectors proper function and maintain battery supply.

**290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)****Met**

**Comment**

The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

**290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)****Met****Comment**

591-1-1-.26 – Please ensure to monitor the playground areas for the following hazards: - Normal wear and tear of playground equipment and toys. Potential entrapment hazards in the fence surrounding the playground area. Biting and/or stinging insects (i.e. ants, bees, etc.). Loose and/or weak tree branches surrounding the playground area. Standing water in and around playground equipment after inclement weather.

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

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk 2 of 5 Components for snack Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers. The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website: DECAL <http://decalfga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx> USDA <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

**Comment**

Discussed new revision to restricted food rule which states: 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.

Please ensure the new updated infant feeding form is used. Discussed revision to the written feeding plans for children under the age of 1 years old. Age-appropriate solid foods (including cereal) shall not be given to infants or children less than one (1) year of age until recommended as developmentally appropriate by the child's primary care physician and indicated in writing by the Parent(s). As soon as the feeding plan indicates that a child is ready for solid foods, the child shall be fed from individual spoons and individual containers or dishes. A child shall not be fed directly from the original baby food container if the contents are to be fed to the child at more than one (1) meal or to more than one (1) child.

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

Staff state proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures. Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date.

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures. Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date.

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

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

**Licensure**

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

Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date.

**Comment**

Appropriate number of children observed in Family Child Care Learning Home this date.

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**Safety and Discipline**

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**290-2-3-.11 Animals****Met****Comment**

The Family Child Care Learning Home does not keep animals on premises.

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

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director/Provider on this date

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**290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit****Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kit observed in the Family Child Care Learning Home

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

The provider stated that does not provide transportation.

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**Staff Records**

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**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

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete for the Provider, one staff and one resident of the home.

**Comment**

Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10 year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the child care industry.

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**290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR****Met****Comment**

Evidence observed that the provider was certified in First Aid and CPR.

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**290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations. Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on February 15, 2021.

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**290-2-3-.07 Staff Training****Met****Comment**

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each Staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

**Comment**

Annual training requirement and documentation for 2020 for the provider observed.

<b>Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision</b>
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**290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR)****Met****Comment**

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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

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

Discussed new revision to the supervision rule which states: Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger.