





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.

**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.

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)

Itza Benn, Program Official

Date

Penny Svenson, Consultant

Date



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

### Findings Report

**Date:** 10/8/2019    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:30 AM    **Departure:** 11:30 AM

**FR-000011073**

**Benn, Itza M.**

5000 Bonnybrook Way Columbus, GA 31907 Muscogee County  
(706) 887-2911 ITZA.BENN@YAHOO.COM

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Regional Consultant**

Penny Svenson

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

### Activities and Equipment

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

There were no infants present on this date. An approved Pack-N-Play was observed to be present.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Swimming rules discussed.

### Children's Records

**Records Reviewed: 2**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2**

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

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**290-2-3-.08 Children's Records****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.08(2) requires the Home to maintain a file for each Child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations; enrollment in the Home may not continue for more than 30 days without such evidence. It was determined based on a review of records that three of four children did not have current immunizations.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

**Correction Deadline: 10/8/2019**

<b>Facility</b>
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**290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Met****Comment**

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

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

The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

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**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 consultant observation that there were weeds, numerous acorns, leaves and limbs present throughout the playground. Further all of the playground equipment was covered in a black residue.

**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: 10/18/2019****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 consultant observation that the gate that led to the swimming pool wasn't locked and there was water present in the swimming pool and it was accessible to children.

**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: 10/8/2019**

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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<b>Licensure</b>
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**290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

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

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<b>Safety and Discipline</b>
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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**

Age-appropriate discussion and redirection were observed on this date.

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

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<b>Staff Records</b>
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**290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.21(1)(a) requires the Home to ensure that the Provider, every actual and potential Employee(including residents age 17 and older) and Provisional Employee of the Family Child Care Learning Home has submitted both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records and staff statements that the Provider did not ensure that every actual and potential employee, that included a resident that was 19 years of age and another staff member that was present with a child and wasn't supervised, did not both submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will ensure that every actual and potential Provider, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Family Child Care Learning Home submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 10/8/2019**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.21(1)(c) requires every Employee to have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before residing in the Home if age 17 or older. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records and staff statements that a staff member and resident of the home that has been present since the provider began operating did not have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while children were present for care. Further a resident of the home that was 19 years of age that moved into the home on September 27, 2019, did not have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while children were present for care and before residing in the Home if age 17 or older.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Home. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 10/8/2019**

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

Discussed staff qualifications and compliance 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**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.