



**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:** 7/28/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 1:00 PM

**Departure:** 2:30 PM

**FR-0000520014**

**Stowers, Cathie G.**

420 Elm Street Elberton, GA 30635 Elbert County  
(706) 283-7736 cathiestowers@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Kelly Jones

Phone: (770) 357-7062

Fax: (770) 357-7061

kelly.jones@decalf.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
07/28/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/18/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing
07/30/2020	Monitoring Visit	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.

**Ratios/License 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	2	3	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	3	4	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	1	2	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 13 Years</b>	6	9	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 18 Years</b>	6				

Children Present: 6	Total Children: 10
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 4	Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

**Comments**

. A virtual inspection was conducted on July 28, 2021, with the Provider. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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/Regulations.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)

Cathie Stowers, Program Official

Date

Kelly Jones, 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:** 7/28/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 1:00 PM    **Departure:** 2:30 PM

**FR-0000520014**

**Stowers, Cathie G.**

420 Elm Street Elberton, GA 30635 Elbert County  
(706) 283-7736 cathiestowers@yahoo.com

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Regional Consultant**

Kelly Jones

Phone: (770) 357-7062  
Fax: (770) 357-7061  
kelly.jones@decals.ga.gov

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

### Activities and Equipment

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

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

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Care is not provided for any infant required to be in a crib

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**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

### Facility

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed Emergency Plan with the provider.

**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 appears clean and free from hazards.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The outside area appears clean and well maintained. Consultant discussed monitoring the playground and fence surrounding the playground area for normal wear and tear (i.e. exposed roots, active ant beds, resilient surface levels, entrapment hazards, etc.) with the director on this date.

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
---------------------------

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The provider stated appropriate diapering procedures. Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the provider on this date..

**Comment**

There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program. Provider stated currently all children are potty trained

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

<b>Licensure</b>
------------------

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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

<b>Safety and Discipline</b>
------------------------------

**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

<b>Staff Records</b>
----------------------

---

**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**

Four of Four Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

---

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<b>Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision</b>
---

---

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