



**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:** 3/23/2021    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 5:30 PM    **Departure:** 7:10 PM

**FR-48433**

**Thomas, Aretha A**

1701 Rio Vista Drive Dalton, GA 30720 Whitfield County  
(706) 280-5620 ldlacademy@optilink.us

**Regional Consultant**

Colleen Covey

Phone: (706) 256-7245

Fax: (706) 256-7244

colleen.covey@decals.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<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.
03/23/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/21/2020	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)	0	0	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	0	4	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	0	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 13 Years</b>	0	5	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 18 Years</b>	0				

  

Children Present: 0	Total Children: 5
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2	Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2

**Comments**

An Administrative Review was conducted on March 24, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on March 24, 2021 with the Director. 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.

The consultant discussed the supplemental payments for child care staff, and vaccine availability during the exit conference.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/24/2021

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.al.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.

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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.al.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.al.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://dec.al.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.

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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.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov)

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Aretha Thomas, Program Official

Date

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Colleen Covey, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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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**

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on March 23, 2021.

**290-2-3-.19 Infant-Sleeping Safety Requirements(CR)** **Not Evaluated**

**Comment**

Currently the provider is not caring for infants. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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

**Comment**

Home does not provide swimming activities.

### Children's Records

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

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

### Facility

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

A virtual walk through of the center was conducted on March 23, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No hazards were observed accessible to children 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.

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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)****Met****Comment**

A virtual walk through of the playground was conducted on March 23, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The playground was observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Food Service**

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

**Health and Hygiene**

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

Staff state proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Director on this date. Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on March 23, 2021.

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**290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)****Not Evaluated****Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

**Licensure**

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

Appropriate number of children enrolled in Family Child Care Learning Home this date. No children were present during the virtual visit.

**Policies and Procedures**

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**290-2-3-.14 Required Reporting****Met****Comment**

Required reporting was discussed with the provider.

**Correction Deadline: 4/23/2021**

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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**

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 on this date.

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

The provider does not currently provide routine transportation.

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**Staff Records**

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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**290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.07(8) requires the Home to maintain for the Provider and any Provisional Employee or Employee with direct care responsibilities current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid which have been offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and which dealt with emergency care for infants and children. Such training must be completed prior to initial licensure for the Provider and within 90 days from date of hire for Provisional Employees and Employees. The Provider, a Provisional Employee or Employee with current CPR and first aid training must always be on the Home's premises and on any field trip whenever any Child is present. It was determined based on a review of records that the provider had current training in CPR and First Aid which was completed online. The course does not meet the requirements of the rule.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will obtain the required CPR and first aid training and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested. The Home will ensure that there is always a Staff person on the Home's premises and on any field trip whenever any Child is present.

**Correction Deadline: 4/23/2021**

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

**Comment**

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.

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

**Not Evaluated**

**Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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

**Not Evaluated**

**Comment**

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.

**Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)