





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)

Pilar Gonzalez, Program Official

Date

Leena Mitchell, 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:** 8/13/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 11:00 AM

**FR-52608**

**Gonzalez, Pilar**

5748 Fulton Circle Norcross, GA 30093 Gwinnett County  
(404) 734-0224 pilarghes@yahoo.com

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Regional Consultant**

Leena Mitchell

Phone: (706) 433-7111  
Fax: (706) 310-6944  
leena.mitchell@decal.ga.gov

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.

**Comment**

A virtual walk through was conducted on this date due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Upon the virtual walk through, equipment was observed to be clean and safe from hazardous conditions.

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

**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)** **Met**

**Comment**

There is no pool on the property

### Facility

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

**Comment**

Home observed complete emergency drills

**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**

A virtual walk through was conducted on this date due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The home appeared to be clean, well maintained, and safe from hazardous condition upon virtual walk through.

---

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The consultant was unable to review the playground area during the scheduled virtual visit due to technical difficulties. The consultant reviewed the playground pictures submitted via email by the provider and observed pictures of the playground equipment, appropriate fence height, and adequate resilient surfacing. 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.
- Fluff and redistribute resilient surface as needed.

---

**Food Service**

---

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

290-2-3-.10(3) - Please ensure the new updated infant feeding form is used. Discussed revision to the written feeding plans for children under the age of one (1) years old. Age-appropriate solid foods (including cereal) shall not be given to infants or children less than one (1) 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.

**Correction Deadline: 8/13/2021****Comment**

290-2-3-.10(8) - Discussed new revision as of October 1, 2020, 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.

**Correction Deadline: 8/13/2021**

---

**Health and Hygiene**

---

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

Provider stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures for staff and children during virtual visit.

---

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

Provider stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures. Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Provider on this date.

---

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

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

---

**Licensure**

---

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

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

---

**Policies and Procedures**

---

---

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

290-2-3-.14(5) - The consultant discussed the updated required reporting requirements regarding suspected cases of child abuse (at the center and/or home) reported to the Department of Family and Children Services, communicable illness required to be reported to the Department of Public Health, and temporary closure of the center via DECAL KOALA.

**Correction Deadline: 9/12/2021**

---

**Safety and Discipline**

---

---

**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 Provider on this date. The provider was 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.

---

**Staff Records**

---

---

**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 on May 26, 2021.

**Comment**

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

---

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

Staff observed to be compliant 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**

290-2-3-.07(17) - Discussed new revision as of October 1, 2020, 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.

**Correction Deadline: 8/13/2021**

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the Provider on this date.