



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: 8/14/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:50 AM **Departure:** 12:10 PM

FR-24147

Thomas, Kinzie L

3818 LEISURE WOOD DRIVE Decatur, GA 30034 DeKalb County
(678) 368-5511

Regional Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
08/14/2025	Licensing Study	Support	
09/04/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/27/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratio 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	2	2	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	4	4	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	4				
Children Present: 4 Total Children: 4					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 5 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2					

Comments

On this date, Jessica Johnson (JJ), reviewed the visit report with Provider Kinzie Thomas. The CCS Consultant discussed and left a copy of the updated Child Care Weather watch Chart with the program today. Weather does not permit outdoor play when there is active precipitation or when weather advisories are in effect. Consult the Child Care Weather Watch Chart resource for further guidance, considering specific weather conditions.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 08/28/2025



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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.decal.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.

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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

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 Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

290-2-3-.09 Activities

Not Met

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.09(3) - Please ensure that outdoor activities are provided daily, weather permitting.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.09(8) requires that the Home Provider shall not engage in or allow children or other adults to engage in activities that could be detrimental to a child's health or well-being such as, but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury. It was determined based on observation that a one-year-old student climbed into the crib by themselves.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

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

Met

Comment

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

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

There is no pool on the property

Children's Records**Records Reviewed: 4****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 3**

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 3

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Infant Feeding Plan - (.10)(4)

Child # 4

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

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

290-2-3-.08(1) - Please ensure adding the parent agreement to children records.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025**Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025****Corrected on 8/14/2025****.08(11) - The previous citation was corrected on this date as the documentation was observed.****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 Child #2 did not have a current immunization record in the records on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(8) - Discussed updating the Home's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Home.

Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Home to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

Additional information can be found in the FCCLH Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(8) - Please ensure safe sleep practices documentation is added to the infant records.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

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 is updated.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.11(2)(c) - Please ensure that the fire/tornado/ emergency situation forms are updated with the current operating hours.

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2025

Comment

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.11(2)(h) - Please ensure that a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit are kept in the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 8/24/2025

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 appeared clean and free from hazards.

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 observation that the following hazards were observed:

- The air conditioner unit was observed not to be surrounded by a four foot fence as required on this date.
- A ladder was observed on the left side of the outdoor play area and accessible to in care children.
- Tree limbs were observed throughout the outdoor play area accessible to children in care.
- A ball pit was observed with 2 inches of water posing as a potential drowning hazard.
- A broken wood piece was observed hanging from the roof ceiling on the right side of the house.
- Four cars were observed parked on the left side of the outdoor play area.
- A water hose was observed on the left side of the house accessible to children in care.

Correction Deadline: 9/4/2025

Recited on 8/14/2025

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 observation that the following fencing hazards were observed:

- There was a four inch gap on the yellow fence on the left side of the outdoor play area posing as a potential entrapment hazard.
- There was a six inch gap on the right fence gate posing as a potential entrapment hazard.
- The gate on the left side of the outdoor play area was observed open on this date. Children were observed present at the program on this date.

Food Service**290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.10(4) requires that all baby bottles be clearly labeled with the individual child's name. Formula or breast milk shall be supplied by the Parent daily in bottles. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. Bottles shall be refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. If formula must be provided by the Home, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on a review of records that Child #2 did not have the infant feeding plan on record on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/21/2025

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

Proper hand washing of children and staff were discussed with the provider on this date.

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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.

Safety and Discipline**290-2-3-.11 Animals****Met****Comment**

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

Finding

290-2-3-.11(3)(a) prohibits a Provider or a Home's Provisional Employees or Employees from physically or sexually abusing a child, or engaging in or permitting others to engage in sexually overt conduct in the presence of any Child enrolled in the Home; inflicting corporal/physical punishment upon a Child; shaking, jerking, pinching or handling roughly a Child; verbally abusing or humiliating a Child which includes, but is not limited to, the use of threats, profanity, or belittling remarks about a Child or his family; isolating a Child in a dark room, closet, or unsupervised area; using mechanical or physical restraints or devices to discipline Children; using medication to discipline a Child, or to control Children's behavior without written medical authorization issued by a licensed professional and given with the Parent's written consent; or disciplining a Child by unreasonably restricting a Child from going to the bathroom; or by punishing toileting accidents; or by force feeding a Child; or by not feeding a Child regularly scheduled meals and/or snacks; or by forcing or withholding naps; or by allowing children to discipline or humiliate other Children; or by confining a Child for disciplinary purposes to a swing, high chair, infant carrier, walker or jump seat. It was determined based on observation that a Staff person was over heard telling a child that they would pop them.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

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

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

290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.11(2)(k) - Please ensure that when transported in a vehicle by the Provider or a Home's employee, children shall be restrained by either individual seat belts or appropriate child restraints in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(m) requires written authorization for the Child to receive emergency medical treatment when the Parent is not available, shall be maintained in the vehicle. It was determined based on a review of record that the emergency medical documentation, annual check forms, and transportation logs were not on file on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/14/2025

Staff Records

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

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR(CR)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.07(8)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that Homes must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training present during field trips, transportation of children, and on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present.

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2025

Finding

Previously Cited: 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 first aid and CPR certification was observed expired on this date.

.07(8)(b) requires the Provider, a Provisional Employee or Employee with current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid must always be on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #1 hired on October 1, 2002 and Staff #3 hired on January 1, 2008, did not have the biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and a triennial training program certification of file on this date.

Correction Deadline: 9/5/2025

Recited on 8/14/2025

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.07(10) - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 8/19/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.07(9)(a) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 9/13/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.07(9)(a) requires that every calendar year, after the first year of employment the Provider, Provisional Employees or and Employees, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #1 hired on October 1, 2002, did not complete the 10 clock hours of diverse training for 2024 as required.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

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.