



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: 5/28/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 2:00 PM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

FR-47074

Smith-Guevara, Leigh A

311 Hollifield Connector Tiger, GA 30576 Rabun County
(706) 982-2536

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

Phone: (770) 357-4922

Fax: Dianne Clarke

dianne.clarke@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

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.
05/28/2026	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
11/13/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/23/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	

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

Comments

Be sure to enter all temporary closures by 7 a.m. (vacation, emergencies, school closures, inclement weather, holidays etc...) in DECAL KOALA under the Required Report tab whenever your facility is temporarily closed when you are not caring for children for one or more days. Be sure to SAVE the report before exiting.

All amendments are required to be electronically submitted in DECAL KOALA.

Please be sure to hire staff who are no longer employed in your DECAL KOALA account. Please reach out for help with this, if needed.

All programs! Please ensure that the director and staff responsible for food preparation completes the four (4) hours of nutrition training as soon as possible but within the first year of employment. (if applicable)

Please remember that the transportation training certificates must be completed prior to participating in transportation and renewed every two years for anyone checking the vehicle, chaperoning on a trip, and signing the checklist, including the director. Please ensure that directors complete the transportation training upon being hired at the center. Please ensure to contact your consultant for guidance if you have not been conducting transportation before you plan to conduct transportation in the future. (if applicable)

**There is a free Transportation Training available on OLLI in Georgia PDS (GaPDS). Health and Safety Orientation Training 15-hour course is available free online in OLLI (staff must successfully complete all three trainings to meet licensing requirements). PLEASE NOTE: If the Health & Safety Orientation Training date is outside of the previous 12 months, the training was not approved for 10 credit hours, or the training certificate is not documented in the employee's GaPDS account, the Staff person will be required to take this training again, within their first 90 days of employment at a new facility. Reminder: Health and Safety Orientation Training can only be taken once every five years.

Talk about updated orientation checklist.

Discussed indicator manual and utilizing it.

Discuss updated Transportation forms including sample as of October 1, 2023, use immediately (if applicable).

Discussed regarding ensuring to complete rechecks for Criminal Records checks at least 90 days before the five-year expiration. Suggestion:

Check monthly or sooner to ensure that staff's criminal records checks are not expiring.

Don't forget to post a new license annually.

Discussed regarding nap/crib mats regarding not using tape to repair; must replace (if applicable).

Recent Changes/Updates: Core Rule: CPR and First Aid will be due within 45 days. 2 hours of Language and Literacy/2 hours of Health and Safety training annually beginning July 1, 2025, a required for all staff. Also, SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome formerly SIDS) must be included on the orientation checklist along with abusive head trauma. **Please don't forget to add to your childcare policies and procedures concerning expulsion, suspension, and practices followed to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed



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.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.

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@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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

Summary Report

Date: 5/28/2026 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 2:00 PM **Departure:** 3:30 PM

FR-47074

Smith-Guevara, Leigh A

311 Hollifield Connector Tiger, GA 30576 Rabun County
(706) 982-2536

Lead Consultant

Dianne Clarke

Phone: (770) 357-4922

Fax: Dianne Clarke

dianne.clarke@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

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.

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

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Technical Assistance

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.

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: 5/28/2026

Facility

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

Comment

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

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)	Met
------------------------------------	------------

Comment

The outside area appeared clean and well maintained.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment

Staff stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

Appropriate vaccination records were available on this date. Observed vaccination due for two dogs on August 8, 2028.

290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)	Met
-----------------------------------	------------

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

-Please ensure that applicants/staff are listing exact dates (including month/day/year) on 10-year work history form in order to determine any breaks in service from the childcare industry.

-Please ensure that all staff, volunteers, independent contractors, substitutes, therapists, etc...has their records check electronically ported to the center's list in KOALA before being present at the facility.

-Please ensure that records checks are redone if there is a six-month (180 calendar days) break in service from the childcare industry.

-Please also ensure that satisfactory records checks are updated before the expiration date.

-Ensure that all therapists and other independent contractors have an updated records check on file, before being present at the center or home or ensure that the individual is supervised at all times by a staff member who has a comprehensive records check if they do not have a records check on file.

-Please ensure that staff with a national background check is always present with a staff member who has a comprehensive background check. Staff should never be by themselves.

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

Met

Comment

Evidence observed that the Provider was certified in pediatric First Aid and CPR on this date.

290-2-3-.07 Other Staff Direct Contact with Children(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.07(28) - New - Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 5/28/2026

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date. Discussed the supervision rule during mealtimes 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.