



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: 4/2/2025

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 11:00 AM **Departure:** 3:45 PM

FR-0000170023

Cooper, Thelma

598 Blount Chapel Road Louisville, GA 30434 Burke County
(478) 206-2872

Regional Consultant

Rebecca Owsley

Phone: (229) 238-2130

Fax:

rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
04/02/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/07/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/22/2022	Licensing Study	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	0	0	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	2	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	5	0	4	0
Total Under 13 Years	1	7	0	4	0
Total Under 18 Years	1				
Children Present: 1 Total Children: 11					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 4 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0					

Comments

An in person licensing study was conducted on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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 user id 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

Finding

290-2-3-.09(1) requires the Home to provide a variety of daily activities appropriate for the Childrens' ages and developmental levels. Children with special needs shall be integrated unless contraindicated medically or by parental agreement. Activities shall be planned to include indoor and outdoor play; a balance of quiet and active periods; a balance of supervised free choice and caregiver-directed activities; individual, small group, and large group activities; large muscle activities; small muscle activities; language experiences; arts and crafts; dramatic play; rhythm and music; and nature and science experiences. It was determined based on observation that a variety of daily activities were not provided for the child present on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will revise the schedule so a variety of appropriate activities are provided.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Recited on 4/2/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.12(1) requires the Home to provide a variety of age-appropriate toys, books and play equipment and materials. It was determined based on observation that there were no age-appropriate toys, books, or play equipment except for two toy trucks.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will secure a variety of appropriate equipment.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.12(8) requires that there be table space available for each child to sit at without assistance. There also must be an appropriately sized chair or bench available for each child. It was determined based on observation that there was no table space available for the child to sit at and the child ate a piece of chicken on a plate while sitting on their bed.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will procure enough table space and seating for all the children in care.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023

Corrected on 4/2/2025

.12(9) - This citation was corrected on this date in that the the toy trucks available were accessible to children.

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

Not Met

Comment

Currently the provider is not caring for infants.

Finding

290-2-3-.19(1)(b) requires that cots and mats shall be provided for each child who is two (2) years of age or older and who is required to take a nap and for each child under the age of two years who can climb out of a crib or other equipment approved for infant sleep. It was determined based on observation that the child present on this date used a bed and did not have a cot or mat for nap as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will provide a cot or mat for every child who is 2 years of age or older and every child who is under the age of 2 year who is able to climb out of a crib.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

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

N/A

Comment

The Provider Stated the Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/28/2023

Corrected on 4/2/2025

.08(2) - This citation was corrected on this date in that based on a review of records all enrolled children had a current immunization record on file.

Facility

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant - Safe Environment

Met

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2023

Corrected on 4/2/2025

.13(1)(g) - This citation was corrected on this date in that based on observation there were no flies or roaches present in the home on this date.

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(c) requires that documentation of drills required by these rules shall be maintained in the Home. The Home shall conduct drills for fire, tornado, and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Home shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the Provider did not have evidence of fire, tornado, and other emergency drills being conducted as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Provider will develop and implement a plan and schedule for conducting the required drills, completing the documentation, keeping the documentation on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(f) requires that poisons, medicines, cleaning agents and other hazardous materials be in locked areas or inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Children's Bathroom

- The cabinet under the sink was unlocked and contained a bottle of toilet bowl cleaner, one Mr Clean spray, one Oxi Clean spray, and one can of dusting spray.
- A bottle of foam bathroom cleaner was on a shelf to the left of the toilet.
- Two plungers and one toilet brush were located to the right of the toilet.

Playroom/TV Room

- The coffee table near the middle of the room contained one knife and two small pairs of scissors in a clay vase, unopened shot tips were scattered on the table alongside two prescription boxes of Sure Comfort pin needles, one can of Lysol spray, one can of Defense roach spray, one can of deodorizer spray, one bottle of Tylenol, one bottle of Germ-X, and one rectangular basket filled with a large variety of pill bottles with a weekly pill container layed on top of it.
- The small table near the child's bed contained one bottle of sleep spray, one bottle of children's Tylenol, one bottle of Tylenol and one kitchen knife.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure the safe storage of hazardous items, the Home Provider will make these items inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2025

Recited on 4/2/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(h) requires at least one UL Approved smoke detector to be on each floor of the Home and such detectors to be maintained in working order. At least one 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguisher shall be kept in the child care area to be located no more than thirty feet from the kitchen. The extinguisher shall be maintained in working order and shall be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that the fire extinguisher needed to be charged.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The home provider will ensure that a working smoke detector is on each floor and a working fire extinguisher is available in the child care area as required, and is maintained inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 4/12/2025

Comment

Operable smoke detector(s) were observed as required in the home this date.

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.13(1) requires that the Home be clean and free from hazards. It was determined based on observation that there were piles of soda cans on the ground outside the front walls of the house and beneath all sides of the ramp to the house. Additionally, there was presence of farm bird feces on the ramp to the house.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure the cleanliness and safety of the environment, the Home Provider will make hazardous items inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2025

Recited on 4/2/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.13(1)(d) requires the Home shall be kept free of fire hazards and unnecessary or excessive combustible material. When in use, radiators, open fire, oil or wood burning stoves, floor furnaces and similar hazards shall have barriers or screens to prevent children from being burned. Unvented fuel fired heaters shall not be used unless equipped with an oxygen depletion safety shut off system. It was determined based on observation that there was one space heater accessible in the bathroom and two space heaters accessible in the playroom.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will remove any unnecessary hazards and will ensure that access to stoves, fire places, etc. is inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.13(1)(e) prohibits the use of multiple plugs and electric extension cords. Electrical outlets within reach of children shall be plugged or covered. It was determined based on observation that there was one uncovered electric outlet and extension cord above the sink in the bathroom and one active uncovered power strip below the coffee table in the playroom accessible to children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will not use multiple plugs and electric extension cords and will check regularly to ensure electrical outlets are plugged or covered.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2025

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****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 fence surrounding the children's play area was not in good repair, had more than half of the fencing laying on the ground, and did not completely enclose the play area.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will enclose the outside play area(s) with a four-foot high fence or other Department-approved barrier and inspect regularly to ensure fencing material is safe and any hazards identified are repaired or replaced. The Home will install or repair a fence around swimming pools that makes them inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 4/30/2025

Recited on 4/2/2025

Food Service

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

290-2-3-.10(1) requires that meals and snacks are served, with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child that meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diet. It was determined based on observation that the child present on this date was served a piece of chicken and later a bag of potato chips and no other food that met the nutritional guidelines during the time of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will prepare menus and/or serve foods that meet the USDA guidelines and will offer and serve seconds to children.

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2025

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk 2 of 5 Components for snack Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers. The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website: DECAL <http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx> USDA <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Finding

290-2-3-.10(3)(g) requires the Home to ensure that children do not have excessive amounts of food in their mouths while eating and are chewing their food appropriately to prevent instances of choking. Children shall always be seated when eating and shall not be allowed to lie down or be put to sleep while food is present in their mouths. It was determined based on observation that a 3-year-old child ate a bag of potato chips while walking around the playroom/tv room and out on to the porch.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will ensure that the amount of food children put into their mouths is being monitored and will ensure that children are always seated while eating, and are not laying down.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2025

290-2-3-.10 Kitchen Operations**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.10(14) requires that the Home have a designated space for storage of food and kitchen items. The area shall be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. It was determined based on observation that the kitchen was not free of dust, dirt, and food particles.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will designate an area for the storage of these items, will ensure that it is clean and monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2025

Recited on 4/2/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.10(17) requires that garbage be stored in trash containers with lids and emptied and cleaned as needed. Areas around outdoor containers shall be kept clean. It was determined based on observation that two trash cans in the Playroom had discarded food or food wrappers inside it without a lid.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will provide trash containers with lids and will train staff to keep lids on containers. The Home will develop and follow a plan to empty and clean trash containers as needed, will provide the cleaning materials, and will monitor.

Correction Deadline: 4/9/2025

Recited on 4/2/2025

Health and Hygiene**290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)****Not Met**

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2023

Corrected on 4/2/2025

.11(1)(i) - This citation was corrected on this date in that based on discussion with the Provider, the Provider stated proper times of day that hand washing occurred.

Finding

290-2-3-.11(1)(j) requires children's hands to be washed with liquid soap and warm running water: immediately upon arrival for the day and re-entering the child care area after outside play; before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, and playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, contact with bodily fluids such as, but not limited to, mucus, saliva, vomit or blood, and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that the child present on this date used bar soap to wash hands instead of liquid soap as required..

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure proper hygiene, all children will wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2025

Recited on 4/2/2025

290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**N/A****Comment**

There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program.

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.11(1)(n) requires pets in the Home be properly vaccinated in accordance with the requirements of the local county Boards of Health. Unconfined pets shall not be permitted in child care areas when any Child is present except for supervised learning experiences. It was determined based on a review of records that one pet dog did not have evidence of current vaccination records. Additionally, the following pets were not confined on this date:

Yard and Front Door Entry

- One stray dog and one pet dog were present on the front lawn and porch.

Inside the House

- The pet dog was not confined when it was inside the Provider's house.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will ensure that all animals are properly vaccinated and that unconfined animals are not allowed in child care areas.

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Recited on 4/2/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.11(o) requires the Home control pets and other animals to maintain proper sanitation and ensure animals are not a hazard to anyone. No animal that may be vicious is permitted on the premises while children are present. Farm animals cannot be housed within 500 feet of the home. It was determined based on observation that roosters, chickens, and one turkey freely roamed the front and back yard. Additionally, there was a chicken coop located closer than five hundred (500) feet of the building in which the Family Child Care Learning Home was located.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure that proper sanitation is maintained and that animals are not a hazard to anyone on the premises of the Home. Any animal that may have a vicious propensity, shall not be allowed on the premises of the Home any time children are present. Any farm animals on the property, must not be housed within 500 feet of the Home.

Correction Deadline: 4/23/2025

Recited on 4/2/2025

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

Met

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

N/A

Comment

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

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**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 did not have current evidence of completion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid as required.

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: 4/16/2025**Recited on 4/2/2025**

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

290-2-3-.07 Staff Training**Not Met****Correction Deadline: 10/7/2023****Corrected on 4/2/2025**

.07(7) - This citation was corrected on this date in that based on a review of records the Provider and Employees had completed Health and Safety Orientation as required.

Finding

290-2-3-.07(9) requires that every calendar year, after the first year of employment the Provider, and any Provisional Employees or and Employees, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department- approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained in the Home by the Provider, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that the Provider did not complete ten (10) clock hours of diverse training in 2024 as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will obtain the required annual training for Staff and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025**Recited on 4/2/2025**

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.