



**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:** 4/16/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:15 AM **Departure:** 12:20 PM

**FR-56707**

**Thomas, LaKesha L**

4930 Whitewater Road Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County  
(229) 460-2147 kesha.thomas3787@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

Phone: ()

Fax:

kayla.coats@decal.ga.gov

Joint with: Kesha McNeal, Kesha McNeal

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                  |               | <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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/16/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 04/23/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12/07/2023                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                    |                  |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| <b>Ratio Capacity</b>                                     |                  |               |      |             |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| 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                                               | 1                | 1             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 3 & 4 Years                                               | 3                | 3             | 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: 4 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2 |                  |               |      |             |                   |

**Comments**

A copy of the visit report was left with the provider 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](http://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:**

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

**Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



(Findings Report)

Date: 4/16/2025 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:15 AM Departure: 12:20 PM

FR-56707

Thomas, LaKesha L

4930 Whitewater Road Valdosta, GA 31601 Lowndes County  
(229) 460-2147 kesha.thomas3787@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Kayla Coats

Phone: ()

Fax:

kayla.coats@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Kesha McNeal, Kesha McNeal

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

A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

Comment

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

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

Met

Comment

Care is not provided for any infant required to be in a crib

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.

Comment

Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked.

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

---

**290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met****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 three packs of wipes were stored on shelves within reach of the children posed a safety hazard.

**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: 4/16/2025**

---

**290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)****Met****Comment**

The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

---

**290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.13(2)(a) - Please ensure that all potential hazards are removed from playground.

**Correction Deadline: 4/26/2025**

---

**Health and Hygiene**

---

---

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the Home.

---

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

There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program.

---

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

---

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

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

---

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

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

**Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Staff Records</b> |
|----------------------|

**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

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|

**Comment**

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

**Comment**

The Provider was observed directly supervising and being attentive to the needs of the children.