



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: 8/6/2025

VisitType: Complaint Investigation Closure from CI FollowUp on 07/02/2025

FR-000007828

Giddens, Arlenitha Y.

5136 MCCARTER STATION Stone Mountain, GA 30088 DeKalb
County
(770) 465-5533 yvettegiddens32@gmail.com

Special Investigations Unit Specialist

Stephanie Ellis

Phone: (470) 442-4722

Fax: (470) 226-2710

stephanie.ellis@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.
07/02/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
07/15/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
07/17/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Comments

7/2/2025 The purpose of this visit was to conduct a complaint investigation.

8/6/2025: Investigative findings were concluded on this date.

Advisement of Potential for Repeated Rule Violations during Pending Investigations

This report shall serve as official notice of potential rule violations. These potential rule violations have been detailed in this report and discussed with you by the consultant. The department shall conduct a thorough investigation to determine if in fact the alleged rule violation(s) should or should not be substantiated. Please be aware that the investigation may take some time to be finalized to ensure fairness and accuracy. During this investigation period, any violations of an identical rule or rules will require the department to treat any and all substantiated rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violation(s).

Further, from time to time the department discovers additional rule violations during the course of an investigation. If there are new rule violation(s), your consultant shall inform you of the violation(s) as soon as possible. However, as stated above, any violations of identical rule(s) will require the department to treat any and all additional rule violations identified in the investigation as repeated rule violations.

All rule violations found in relation to a complaint or incident investigation will be associated with the date the investigation was closed.



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)

I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations for Family Child Care Learning Home, 290-2-3. I acknowledge that the items noted in this report have been discussed with me and I have agreed to a Plan of Improvement (POI) as indicated in this report. I understand that correction of these deficiencies, while required, will not necessarily prevent DECAL from taking adverse action against this facility. I understand that if I disagree with any of the deficiencies cited, I have the right to refute them on this report or any other form that I choose to send to Child Care Services.



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Summary Report

Date: 8/6/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure **Arrival:** 11:20 AM **Departure:** 12:40 PM
from CI FollowUp on 07/02/2025

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The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Health and Hygiene

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Investigation

290-2-3-.11(1)(m) requires that Home personnel keep children clean, dry and comfortable. It was determined based on an investigation that on June 26, 2025, a 2-year-old child left the property of a family home unsupervised and was found walking in the middle of a neighboring street with wet clothing. The provider did not ensure the child's health and physical comfort were protected. This rule was not met.

Correction Deadline: 8/20/2025

Licensure

290-2-3-.05 Inspections & Investigations

Not Met

Finding Associated with Investigation

290-2-3-.05(e) requires that the Provider not make or condone false or misleading statements to the Department in connection with any authorized investigation or inspection being conducted by the Department. It was determined based on an investigation that on June 26, 2025, a family home provider initially stated they contacted a neighbor for assistance in locating a missing child. The provider later clarified that no contact was made, and the neighbor came outside after observing police activity. The Department determined that the provider made a false or misleading statement in connection with the investigation. This rule was not met.

Policies and Procedures**290-2-3-.14 Required Reporting****Not Met****Finding Associated with Investigation**

290-2-3-.14(1) requires the Home to report or cause to be reported to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day: any death of a Child while in the care of the Home; any serious illness or injury requiring hospitalization or professional medical attention other than first aid of a Child while in the care of the Home; any situation when a Child in care becomes missing, such as but not limited to, a Child who is left on a vehicle, a Child who leaves the Home, playground, or property, or a Child who is left behind on any trip; any fire; any structural disaster; any emergency situation that requires temporarily relocating children; and any time the Home's operating status changes (i.e., open to closed or temporarily closed and temporarily closed to open). It was determined based on an investigation that on June 26, 2025, the family home provider did not notify the Department within twenty-four (24) hours or on the next workday that a 2-year-old child had left the property unsupervised. Professional medical attention was not obtained.

Correction Deadline: 8/20/2025

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision**290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR)****Not Met****Finding Associated with Investigation**

290-2-3-.07(18) requires at least one Staff person with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination shall supervise Children at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means Staff members are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The person(s) supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. 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. Plans shall be made to obtain additional Staff help in cases of emergencies. It was determined based on an investigation that on June 26, 2025, a 2-year-old child left the playground unsupervised and was found walking in the middle of a neighboring street. The provider did not notice the child was missing until reaching the entry door and was not actively searching when the child was located. The child was missing for approximately 20 minutes. The Department determined that adequate supervision was not provided. Professional medical attention was not obtained. Additionally, it was further determined, the provider left children unsupervised in the home while searching for the missing child.

Correction Deadline: 8/20/2025