



**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:** 4/18/2024 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 11:25 AM **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**FR-63104**

**Woods, Debbie M**

3740 Ridgemere Dr Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County  
(229) 292-5366 steppingstonesdclc1@gmail.com

Application Services Unit Consultant

Crystal Miller

Phone: (470) 392-4241

Fax:

crystal.miller@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

3740 Ridgemere Dr  
Valdosta, GA

**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. |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/18/2024                  | Initial Licensing Study | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                             |                         |               | <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.                                                                                                                |
|                             |                         |               | <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.                                                                                                                          |
|                             |                         |               | <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.                                                                                                                |

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

**Comments**

An Administrative Review was conducted on 04/18/2024. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. An in person Initial Licensing Study was conducted on 04/18/2024. The exit conference was conducted in person on 04/18/2024 at 12:30 PM with the Provider. Permission to Operate issued on this date. Facility does not carry Liability Insurance.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

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.

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#### 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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Debbie Woods, Program Official

Date

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Crystal Miller, Application Services Unit Consultant

Date



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**(Findings Report)**

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The following information is associated with a Initial 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.

**Correction Deadline: 4/18/2024**

**Comment**

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured.

**Correction Deadline: 4/18/2024**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Consultant observed Two (2) of two (2) cribs meeting safety compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards manufactured in (2022/2023). Consultant discussed safe sleeping requirements with the director during the inspection visit.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

**Children's Records**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Facility**

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|                                                          |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

Provider does not have fire arms in the home.

**Correction Deadline: 4/18/2024**

**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.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

The home appears clean and free from hazards.

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|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

The outside area appears clean and well maintained.

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|---------------------------|
| <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
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|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the provider during the inspection visit.

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|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas &amp; Practices(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures. Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Provider on this date.

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| <b>290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
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**Comment**

: Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

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| <b>Licensure</b> |
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|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Permission to Operate issued on this date. The overall licensed capacity is six (6) children at any given time.

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| <b>Safety and Discipline</b> |
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| <b>290-2-3-.11 Animals</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

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

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|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
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**Comment**

Consultant discussed appropriate discipline and guidance techniques with the provider.

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

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

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the facility decides to incorporate transportation. The center will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hour transportation training prior to transporting children.

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| <b>Staff Records</b> |
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**290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete. Two (2) records was observed to have comprehensive satisfactory Criminal Background Check determination letters on file for the provider and all residents living in the home seventeen (17) years and older.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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

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**290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR)****Met****Comment**

Currently there are no children present in the program. Consultant discussed ratios with the Provider on this date.

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

Currently there are no children present in the program. Consultant discussed direct supervision with the Provider on this date.