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: 9/24/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:15 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

FR-000007224
Sams, Elsie M.
413 LINWOOD RD. Savannah, GA 31419 Chatham County
(912) 224-2503 emswithlove@comcast.net

Regional Consultant
Rebecca Owsley
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Fax:
rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
09/24/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
07/27/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing
02/17/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

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.

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	0	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	5	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	0	6	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	0				

Children Present: 0
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2
Total Children: 6
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

Comments
An in person licensing study was conducted on this date. The provider stated they do not administer medication and they do not offer field trips, or swimming activities. There are no animals or firearms on the premises. The provider stated they do offer routine transportation. The consultant discussed with the provider that they need to do an amendment to change operational hours if they are not caring for kids throughout the day and are only caring for kids during the before and after school times.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/24/2024

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 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)

QUALITY RATED CHILD CARE

CAPS CHILDCARE AND PARENT SERVICES

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 a1 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@decal.ga.gov **for more information. Free techincal assistance is available!**

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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.12(5) - requires all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment shall be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint and kept clean. Please ensure the basketball hoop is free of exposed chipped paint and rust.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

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

Comment
Care is not provided for any infant required to be in a crib or any child that would nap on a cot.

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

Records Reviewed: 6 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Child # 1 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Parents Names Missing -(.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Transportation Agreement - (.08)(7),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form,Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4)

Child # 2 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Parents Names Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Transportation Agreement - (.08)(7),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Dad Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Transportation Agreement - (.08)(7),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Dad Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Parents Names Missing -(.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Transportation Agreement - (.08)(7),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Parents Names Missing -(.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Transportation Agreement - (.08)(7),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Parents Names Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Dad Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Transportation Agreement - (.08)(7),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form,Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4)

290-2-3-.08 Children's Records **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.08(1) requires the Home to have a current and updated record for each Child in care and for a period of one (1) year after each Child leaves. Such records shall include: identifying information (Child's name, birth date, Parent's name, home and business addresses, telephone numbers); name, address and telephone number of persons, including Child's physician, to contact in emergencies; and name, address, telephone numbers, relationship to Child and to Parent(s) and other identifying information of person(s) to whom the Child may be released. It was determined based on a review of records that six out of six children enrolled did not have a complete, updated record on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Finding
290-2-3-.08(11) requires that if the Home is not covered by liability insurance sufficient to protect its clients, the Home must notify the Parent of each Child under the care of the program in writing. Each Parent must acknowledge receipt of such notice, and a copy of the acknowledgement shall be kept in the Child's file. It was determined based on a review of records six out of the six children enrolled did not have a copy of the receipt of notice of No Liability Insurance.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will obtain and maintain documentation.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Finding
290-2-3-.08(2) requires the Home to maintain a file for each Child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations; enrollment in the Home may not continue for more than 30 days without such evidence. It was determined based on a review of records that six out of the six children enrolled did not have current immunization forms on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Finding
290-2-3-.08(4) requires the Home to maintain a file for each Child that includes known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which would limit the Child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review or records that Child #1, #3, #4, #5, and #6 did not have known allergies or or developmental abilities documented in the file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will secure and maintain the missing Child's health information.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.08(7) requires the Home to maintain Parental agreements for transportation and for field trips, swimming or other activities away from the Home in each Child's record. It was determined based on a review or records that child #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5 that the provider stated they transport to and from Windsor Forest Elementary did not have parental agreements for transportation on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will obtain written parental authorization, as required, before taking Children away from the Home. The Home will also review records; determine if all required information is completed; obtain any missing information; and have a plan to maintain complete records/forms for each Child as they enroll or as changes occur.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

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 there was a bottle of bleach on the floor in the bathroom and cleaning products underneath the sink cabinet without a lock accessible to children.

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: 9/24/2024

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) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.13(2)(a) requires that outdoor play areas be kept clean and free of hazards such as exposed sharp corners of concrete or equipment, rust and splinters on equipment, broken glass, open drainage ditches, holes and stagnant water. It was determined based on observation that there were three metal rods from old construction fencing sticking out from the ground with a sharp wire on the end of one rod. The rods were sharp on the ends and present a tripping hazard. Additionally there were two active ant piles by the gate. Additionally there was a concrete area with numerous cracks and many exposed sharp corners. Additionally the wood planks outside the door near the children's table were weathered, soft, and sinking presenting a tripping hazard and potential for splinters.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will repair any and all identified outdoor hazards and will monitor playground daily or more often as needed to ensure that the Home's outdoor play area is kept clean and free of hazards.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2024

Technical Assistance
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. Please ensure that the front gate that was open is latched closed when the children return to play outside.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Staff state proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **Met**

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 **N/A**

Comment
The Provider stated the Family Child Care Learning Home does not keep animals on premises.

290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR) **Not Evaluated**

Comment
There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.11(1)(e) requires the Home and any vehicle used for transportation Children to have a first aid kit which at least contains: scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, thermometer, adhesive tape, band-aids, insect - sting preparation, antiseptic cleaning solution, antibacterial ointment, bandages, disposable rubber gloves, protective eyewear, facemask, and cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored in a central location so that it is not accessible to Children but is easily accessible to the Provider and Staff. The Home must also maintain written directions for the use of universal precautions for handling blood and bodily fluids. The directions on the use of universal precautions must be kept with the first aid kit at all times. It was determined based on observation that there was not a first aid kit in the vehicle used for transportation.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will replace any missing items in the first aid kit, keep the instruction manual and written universal precautions with the kit and will check the kit regularly. The Home will store the kit where children will not have access to it.

Correction Deadline: 10/4/2024

Comment
Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.11(2)(k) requires that when transported in a vehicle by the Provider or a Home's employee, children shall be restrained by either individual seat belts or appropriate child restraints in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations. It was determined based on a review or records and based on the Provider's statements that during the school days from September 3, 2024 through September 24, 2024, five children were transported to and from Windsor Elementary School when there are only three seat belts in the back of the vehicle.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will ensure the use of appropriate restraints for all children in care.

Correction Deadline: 9/25/2024

Finding
290-2-3-.11(2)(m) requires written authorization for the Child to receive emergency medical treatment when the Parent is not available, shall be maintained in the vehicle. It was determined based on a review or records that there was no emergency medical information for all children transported.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will obtain copies of parental authorizations and maintain them in the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

Staff Records

290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.21(1)(k) requires that only the most recently issued, electronically ported, determination letter is eligible for portability for Providers, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Provider may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter for a Provisional Employee or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department for a potential Employee if the individual’s Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Provider does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual’s satisfactory status has changed. It was determined based on a review of records that the Provider had not ported over their most recent Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued to another center.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will immediately ensure that only the most recently issued determination letter is electronically ported for Directors, Employees and Provisional Employees, excluding Students-in-Training. A Home may accept a satisfactory Fingerprint Records Check Determination letter or a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination letter issued by the Department if the Records Check Clearance Date is within the preceding 12 months from the hire date, the individual has not had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, and the Home does not know or reasonably should not know that the individual's satisfactory status has changed. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will immediately continue to ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 9/24/2024

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**

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 or records that the provider did not have ten hours of annual training for the 2023 year 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: 10/24/2024

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR) **Not Evaluated**

Comment
There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR) **Not Evaluated**

Comment
There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)