



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: 8/25/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure from CI FollowUp on 07/23/2025

FR-47074

Smith-Guevara, Leigh A

311 Hollifield Connector Tiger, GA 30576 Rabun County
(706) 982-2536 leighguevara@hotmail.com

Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist

Tracey Caine

Phone: (706) 497-1536

Fax: (404) 567-6041

tracey.caine@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.
08/25/2025	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
07/23/2025	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	Good Standing	
12/05/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Comments

07-23-25: The investigative findings were not concluded on this date.

08-25-25: The 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.



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

Summary Report

Date: 8/25/2025 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation Closure from CI FollowUp on 07/23/2025 **Arrival:** 10:05 AM **Departure:** 12:00 PM

FR-47074

Smith-Guevara, Leigh A

311 Hollifield Connector Tiger, GA 30576 Rabun County
(706) 982-2536 leighguevara@hotmail.com

Special Investigations Unit Sr. Specialist

Tracey Caine

Phone: (706) 497-1536

Fax: (404) 567-6041

tracey.caine@dec.al.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

The following information is associated with a Complaint Closure:

Children's Records

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

Not Met

Finding Associated with Complaint

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 an investigation that on July 23, 2025, the provider failed to maintain current and updated individual records on each child in care. A review of records determined that on July 21, 2025, the provider had a 1-year-old child and a 5-year-old child in care for pay and failed to have any enrollment information or individual record on the children.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2025

Finding Associated with Complaint

290-2-3-.08(9) requires that the Parent or person(s) authorized by the Parent or guardian to drop off and pick up the Child document each time the Parent or authorized person drops off and picks up the Child. The documentation shall include at least the following information: the date, the Child's name, the arrival and departure times, and the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person and shall be made available to the Department in printed or written form upon request. It was determined based on an investigation that on July 23, 2025, the provider failed to maintain current and updated individual records on each child in care. A review of records determined that on July 21, 2025, the provider had seven children, four for pay and three for non-pay, in care. The for-pay children were one 1-year-old, one 3-year-old child, and one 5-year-old child. The not-for-pay children were two 1-year-olds, one 3-year-old, and one 6-year-old child. The provider failed to have documentation of the arrival and departure times of the children in care.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will develop, if needed, and implement sign-in and out procedures that include all required information, will inform Parents of the procedures and will monitor to ensure Children are signed in and out as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2025

Safety and Discipline

Finding Associated with Complaint

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 an investigation that on July 23, 2025, the provider failed to maintain current and updated individual records on each child in care. A review of records determined that on July 21, 2025, the provider had seven children, four for pay and three for non-pay, in care. The for-pay children were one 1-year-old, one 3-year-old child, and one 5-year-old child. The not-for-pay children were two 1-year-olds, one 3-year-old, and one 6-year-old child. The provider failed to have current vaccination records of two mini schnauzers that were present in the residence and accessible to children. The vaccination records for the schnauzers expired on May 4, 2025.

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: 8/25/2025