



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: 9/7/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:00 AM **Departure:** 2:00 PM

FR-0000170023

Cooper, Thelma

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(478) 206-2872 thelcooper55@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Ashley Richards

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Joint with: Kesha McNeal

Mailing Address

PO Box 4435
Louisville, GA 30434

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.
09/07/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/22/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/28/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

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	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	2	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	1	3	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	1				
Children Present: 1 Caregivers/Helpers Present: 4					
Total Children: 6 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments

This purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 09/07/2023

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)



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 for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Thelma Cooper, Program Official

Date

Ashley Richards, Regional Consultant

Date

Kesha McNeal, CCS Coordinator

Date



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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-.09 Activities

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.09(1) requires the Home to provide a variety of daily activities appropriate for the Childrens' ages and developmental levels. Children with special needs shall be integrated unless contraindicated medically or by parental agreement. Activities shall be planned to include indoor and outdoor play; a balance of quiet and active periods; a balance of supervised free choice and caregiver-directed activities; individual, small group, and large group activities; large muscle activities; small muscle activities; language experiences; arts and crafts; dramatic play; rhythm and music; and nature and science experiences. It was determined based upon observation that a variety of daily activities was not provided for the children present on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will revise the schedule so a variety of appropriate activities are provided.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023

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

Not Met

Comment

Discussed with the provider to add toys and materials to enhance the learning environment.

Finding

290-2-3-.12(9) requires that toys be stored on low, open shelves and easily accessible to children in each room or assigned area. It was determined based upon observation that toys were not stored on low open shelves and accessible for children on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will rearrange the toys so that they are appropriately accessible to the children in care.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023

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

N/A

Comment

Currently the provider is not caring for infants. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

Comment

There is no pool on the property

Children's Records**Records Reviewed: 6****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

290-2-3-.08 Children's Records**Not Met****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 that two out of six children had expired immunization records and one out of six children did not have an immunization record on file on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

Correction Deadline: 9/28/2023**290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)****Met****Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Facility**290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant - Safe Environment****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.13(1)(g) requires that measures be used to prevent the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin on the premises, Windows and doors used for ventilation shall be screened. It was determined based upon observation that flies and roaches were present in the home on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will use effective pest control methods, check the premises regularly and follow up immediately if any problems are noted. The Home will only leave screened windows and doors for ventilation and will not leave unscreened windows and doors open.

Correction Deadline: 9/22/2023

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 upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children on this date:

Playroom

- A pack of Huggies Sensitive Wipes were located on the bed on the right side of the room.
- The top outlet to the right of the door frame was uncovered and accessible.
- A tub of Vaseline was located on the lower black shelf in the back of the playroom.

Children's Bathroom

- The cabinet under the sink was unlocked and contained two Lysol Power Cleaning Gel bottles, one can of Great Value Foam Bathroom Cleaner, and two Lysol Toilet Bowl Clings.
- A bottle of bleach was located to the left of the toilet.
- Two plungers and one toilet brush were located to the right of the toilet.

TV Room

- The tv table contained one knife and one small pair of scissors in a clay vase, used shot tips were located inside an open plastic bottle, one bottle of Nature Valley Magnesium, two tubs of Equate Healing Ointment, two bottles of Hand-E-Foam First Aid anti-septic, one container of Mini Mag Hollow Point 22LR bullets, a key chain with pliers, a prescription box of Sure Comfort pin needles, and a bottle of Gold Bond Ultimate Diabetic lotion.
- The bed to the right of the front door contained an open container (under the bed) of one bottle of Tylenol and one bottle of Arm and Hammer Ultra Max Deodorant.
- A broom was located to the right of the front door.
- A bottle of Fabuloso Multi-Purpose with Baking Soda was located to the left of the door.
- A can of Pledge Dust Spray was located on the second shelf from the bottom.

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: 9/7/2023

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.

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.13(1) requires that the Home be clean and free from hazards. It was determined based upon observation that the sink in the children's bathroom was leaking underneath inside the cabinet and the water could not be accessed for hand washing.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure the cleanliness and safety of the environment, the Home Provider will make hazardous items inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023

Recited on 9/7/2023

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.13(2)(a) - The Consultants and Provider discussed that the play area should be free from loose limbs before children go out to play.

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Finding

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. It was determined based upon observation that the fence surrounding the children's play area is not secured and in good repair on the front, right, and back sides.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will enclose the outside play area(s) with a four-foot high fence or other Department-approved barrier and inspect regularly to ensure fencing material is safe and any hazards identified are repaired or replaced. The Home will install or repair a fence around swimming pools that makes them inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023

Recited on 9/7/2023

Food Service**290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.10(6) - Please ensure that a weekly menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week are posted.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2023

290-2-3-.10 Kitchen Operations**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.10(14) requires that the Home have a designated space for storage of food and kitchen items. The area shall be kept clean and free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles and grease deposits. It was determined based upon observation that the kitchen was not free of dust, dirt, and food particles.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will designate an area for the storage of these items, will ensure that it is clean and monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 9/28/2023

Finding

290-2-3-.10(17) requires that garbage be stored in trash containers with lids and emptied and cleaned as needed. Areas around outdoor containers shall be kept clean. It was determined based upon observation that one out of two trash cans in the kitchen did not have a lid which contained disposed food. It was further determined based upon observation that a trash can located on the back left side of the Playroom had discarded food inside it without a lid.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will provide trash containers with lids and will train staff to keep lids on containers. The Home will develop and follow a plan to empty and clean trash containers as needed, will provide the cleaning materials, and will monitor.

Correction Deadline: 9/28/2023

Health and Hygiene

Finding

290-2-3-.11(1)(i) requires that personnel shall wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water: immediately before and after each diaper change; immediately upon the first Child's arrival in the Home for care and upon re-entering the Home after outside play; before and after dispensing oral medications and applying topical medications, ointments, creams or lotions, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding or assisting children with eating and drinking; after toileting or helping children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids such as, but not limited to, mucus, saliva, vomit or blood, and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based upon observation that the Provider did not wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water after changing a child's diaper.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure proper hygiene, all Staff shall wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2023

Finding

290-2-3-.11(1)(j) requires children's hands to be washed with liquid soap and warm running water: immediately upon arrival for the day and re-entering the child care area after outside play; before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, and playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, contact with bodily fluids such as, but not limited to, mucus, saliva, vomit or blood, and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based upon observation that a child present on this date did not have his hands washed with liquid soap and warm running water after diapering. It was further determined that the child did not wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water before eating lunch.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure proper hygiene, all children will wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2023

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

290-2-3-.11(1)(f) -The Consultants and Provider discussed the steps of diapering rules and procedures on this date.

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. The Consultants observed the Provider care for one related child for pay on this date.

Safety and Discipline

Finding

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 upon observation that the following pets were not vaccinated and confined on this date:

Yard and Front Door Entry

- Nine cats were present at the front door.
- One dog was present on the front lawn.

Inside the House

- A canine Pit Bull mix was not confined and inside the Provider's house.

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: 9/29/2023

Finding

290-2-3-.11(o) requires the Home control pets and other animals to maintain proper sanitation and ensure animals are not a hazard to anyone. No animal that may be vicious is permitted on the premises while children are present. Farm animals cannot be housed within 500 feet of the home. It was determined based upon observation that the following pets and animals were not maintained in proper sanitation and not a hazard:

Inside the House

- A canine Pit Bull mix was not confined and inside the Provider's house.

Back Yard

- Roosters and chickens are located in a coop behind the house. The chicken coop is located closer than five hundred (500) feet of the building in which the Family Child Care Learning Home is located.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure that proper sanitation is maintained and that animals are not a hazard to anyone on the premises of the Home. Any animal that may have a vicious propensity, shall not be allowed on the premises of the Home any time children are present. Any farm animals on the property, must not be housed within 500 feet of the Home.

Correction Deadline: 9/29/2023

290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.11(3) - The Consultants and Provider discussed age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection techniques on this date.

290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit

Met

Comment

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

290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)

N/A

Comment

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.07(8) requires the Home to maintain for the Provider and any Provisional Employee or Employee with direct care responsibilities current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid which have been offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and which dealt with emergency care for infants and children. Such training must be completed prior to initial licensure for the Provider and within 90 days from date of hire for Provisional Employees and Employees. The Provider, a Provisional Employee or Employee with current CPR and first aid training must always be on the Home's premises and on any field trip whenever any Child is present. It was determined based upon an observation of records that the Employees did not have completed First Aid or CPR trainings as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will obtain the required CPR and first aid training and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested. The Home will ensure that there is always a Staff person on the Home's premises and on any field trip whenever any Child is present.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2023

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(7) requires that the Provider, Employees and Provisional Employees with direct care responsibilities shall complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based upon a review of records that the Provider and Employees did not have completed Health and Safety Orientation training as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Provider will complete the required training and will ensure any Employees or Provisional Employees complete the training. The Provider will develop a plan to ensure that any new Staff hired complete the training as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/7/2023

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 upon a review of records that the Provider and Employees did not have ten (10) clock hours of diverse training 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: 10/7/2023

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date. The Consultants observed the Provider care for one related child for pay on this date.

290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.