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: 10/10/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:45 AM **Departure:** 11:20 AM

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

Regional Consultant
Rebecca Owsley
Phone: (229) 238-2130
Fax:
rebecca.owsley@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
10/10/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
05/19/2025	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
09/24/2024	Licensing Study	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	0	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	9	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	0	9	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	0				

Children Present: 0
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1
Total Children: 9
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

Comments
The Consultant conducted the exit conference with the Provider on this date.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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 techincal assistance is available!**

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Summary Report

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

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

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

Comment
Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 9 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 9**

Child # 1 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 2 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 3 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 4 Not Met
"Missing/Incomplete Components"
Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 7 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 8 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 9 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

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

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 nine out of the nine 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: 12/5/2025

Recited on 10/10/2025

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 Child #4 and Child #9 did not have evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations.

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

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

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 of records that Child #4 and Child #7 did not have known allergies or medical conditions acknowledged in their files.

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

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

Technical Assistance
290-2-3-.08(8)(a) - New - Discussed updating the Home's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the Home.
Also discussed to ensure a description of the practices followed by the Home to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.
Additional information can be found in the FCCLH Indicator Manual found on DECAL's website at: https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: https://dontshake.org/.

Correction Deadline: 10/10/2025

Facility

290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR) **Met**

Comment
No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR) **Met**

Comment
The Home appeared 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 presented a tripping hazard. Additionally, there was a concrete area with numerous cracks and many exposed sharp corners.

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: 10/17/2025

Recited on 10/10/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

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

290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR) **N/A**

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
Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date.

Safety and Discipline

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 **Met**

Correction Deadline: 5/26/2025

Corrected on 10/10/2025
.11(1)(e) - The previous citation was observed corrected on this date. As of this date, the Provider no longer provided transportation, therefore not requiring a first aid kit to be maintained in the vehicle.

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

Comment
The Provider stated the Home 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 **Met**

Comment
Evidence observed that the Provider was certified in pediatric First Aid and CPR on this date.

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 **Met**

Comment
290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - New - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, all staff are required to obtain at least two hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and at least two hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics as part of their 10 hours of annual training.

Correction Deadline: 11/9/2025

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) **N/A**

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