



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: 10/14/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 11:05 AM **Departure:** 12:40 PM

FR-0000170023
Cooper, Thelma
598 Blount Chapel Road Louisville, GA 30434 Burke County
(478) 206-2872

Regional Consultant
Christina Jennings
Phone: (404) 463-0970
Fax: (770) 342-3177
christina.jennings@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
10/14/2025	Monitoring Visit	Deficient	
04/02/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/07/2023	Licensing Study	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	2	3	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	4	0	4	0
Total Under 13 Years	2	7	0	4	0
Total Under 18 Years	2				
Children Present: 2 Total Children: 11					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 5 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 0					

Comments

The report was not closed on site due to technical issues.

Plan of Improvement: To Be Submitted 10/28/2025

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!



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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-.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 on observation that a variety of daily activities were not provided for the children present on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.12(1) requires the Home to provide a variety of age-appropriate toys, books and play equipment and materials. It was determined based on observation that there were no age-appropriate toys, books, or play equipment accessible to the children present on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.12(7) requires all indoor and outdoor furniture and equipment shall be secured if equipment and furniture is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. Potentially unstable equipment and furniture that might injure a child if not secured include, but are not limited to, televisions, chests of drawers, bookcases, shelving, cabinets and fish tanks. Examples of items not required to be secured include, but are not limited to, child-sized tables and chairs, rocking chairs, and cribs. It was determined based on observation that there were various pieces of furniture, medical equipment, shelving, a television, and other items that were not visible stacked from the floor to the ceiling along the right wall in the children's playroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.12(8) requires that there be table space available for each child to sit at without assistance. There also must be an appropriately sized chair or bench available for each child. It was determined based on observation that there was no table space available for the children present to sit at on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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

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

Correction Deadline: 4/16/2025

Corrected on 10/14/2025

.19(1)(b) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed two cots for the two children present on this date.

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

There is no pool on the property

	Facility
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290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)	Not Met
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Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(c) requires that documentation of drills required by these rules shall be maintained in the Home. The Home shall conduct drills for fire, tornado, and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Home shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on a review of records that the Provider did not have evidence of fire, tornado, and other emergency drills being conducted from January through September 2025.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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

Children's Bathroom:

- The cabinet under the children's handwashing sink was unlocked, and contained a bottle of toilet bowl cleaner, one Mr Clean spray, one Oxi Clean spray, and one can of dusting spray.
- A bottle of foam bathroom cleaner was on a shelf on the left side of the toilet.
- Two toilet plungers and one toilet bowl brush were located on the right side of the toilet.

Playroom/TV Room:

- A knife and two small pairs of scissors in a clay vase on the coffee table.
 - There were unopened shot tips scattered on the coffee table alongside two prescription boxes of Sure Comfort pin needles, one can of Lysol spray, one can of Defense roach spray, one can of deodorizer spray, one bottle of Tylenol, one bottle of Germ-X, and one rectangular basket filled with a variety of pills in a weekly pill container layed on top of it.
 - The small table near the child's bed contained one bottle of sleep spray, one bottle of children's Tylenol, and one bottle of Tylenol.
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Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(h) requires at least one UL Approved smoke detector to be on each floor of the Home and such detectors to be maintained in working order. At least one 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguisher shall be kept in the child care area to be located no more than thirty feet from the kitchen. The extinguisher shall be maintained in working order and shall be inaccessible to the children. It was determined based on observation that the fire extinguisher was inoperable due to the fire extinguisher needed to be recharged.

Correction Deadline: 10/15/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.13(1) requires that the Home be clean and free from hazards. It was determined based on observation that the carpeting and flooring in the children's playroom was damp, soiled, stained, and was not in sanitary condition. It was further determined that the wood around the bathtub in the children's bathroom was wet and had the presence of a mold that was dark in color.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.13(1)(d) requires the Home shall be kept free of fire hazards and unnecessary or excessive combustible material. When in use, radiators, open fire, oil or wood burning stoves, floor furnaces and similar hazards shall have barriers or screens to prevent children from being burned. Unvented fuel fired heaters shall not be used unless equipped with an oxygen depletion safety shut off system. It was determined based on observation that there was one space heater accessible to children in the room leading to the children's playroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.13(1)(e) prohibits the use of multiple plugs and electric extension cords. Electrical outlets within reach of children shall be plugged or covered. It was determined based on observation that there was an uncovered electric outlet with an extension cord above the handwashing sink in the children's bathroom. It was further determined that there was one active uncovered power strip accessible to children below the coffee table in the playroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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 the following outdoor hazards were accessible to children on the route to the play area:

Farm bird feces on the ramp leading from the entrance of the home to the outdoor play area.

A station wagon automobile and a conversion that were not in working condition with extensive rust and deterioration, several windows were broken, and parked in the front yard of the home. The two children that were present at the time of the visit were observed to have access to the automobile when the children were in the front yard of the home without supervision.

Three automobile batteries and a pair of outdoor gardening clippers on the hood of the automobile.

Trash throughout the front porch area leading into the home.

Correction Deadline: 10/24/2025

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 on observation that the fence surrounding the children's play area was not in good repair, had more than half of the fencing lying on the ground, and did not completely enclose the play area.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

Food Service

290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition

Met

Correction Deadline: 4/3/2025

Corrected on 10/14/2025

.10(1) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed the menu served to children that met the nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program on this date.

Correction Deadline: 4/2/2025

Corrected on 10/14/2025

.10(3)(g) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Provider stated that children are required to eat while seated. The Consultant did not observe food served to the children present on this date.

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 on observation that the kitchen was not free of dust, dirt, and food particles.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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 on observation that there were two trash cans that had discarded food stored in the trash container without a lid accessible to children in the children's Playroom.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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

Not Met

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 on observation that the Provider did not wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water when entering the home as required.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

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 on observation that a 4-year-old child and a 3-year-old child did not wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water when reentering the home and after handling an animal on this date.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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)**Met****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**Not Met****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 on a review of records that one pet dog did not have evidence of current vaccination records. It was further determined that there was a stray dog that was not confined on the front porch at the entrance of the home. It was also determined that there were three stray kittens on the front porch of the home and were allowed to roam in and out of the Provider's home while the entrance door of the home remained open.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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 on observation that there were roosters, chickens, and one turkey that freely roamed the front and back yard. It was further determined that there was a chicken coop located closer than five hundred (500) feet of the building in which the Family Child Care Learning Home was located.

Correction Deadline: 10/15/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)	N/A
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Comment

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

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

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

Finding

Previously Cited: 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 on a review of records that the Provider did not have current evidence of completion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid as required.

290-2-3-.07(8)(b) requires the Provider, a Provisional Employee or Employee with current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid must always be on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #3 did not have current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid as required. Staff #3 was observed caring for a 4-year-old child and a 3-year-old child and there were no other employees present that had current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid.

Correction Deadline: 10/31/2025

Recited on 10/14/2025

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

Defer

Defer

290-2-3-.07(9)-Deferred to the next licensing study in 2026 to review 2025 annual training.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2025

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

Finding

290-2-3-.07(18) requires at least one Staff person with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination shall supervise Children at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means Staff members are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The person(s) supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. Plans shall be made to obtain additional Staff help in cases of emergencies. It was determined based on observation that a 4-year-old child and a 3-year-old child were allowed to play on the front porch and the front yard of the home from 11:26 a.m. to 11:43 a.m. while the staff member was inside the home watching television.

Correction Deadline: 10/14/2025