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: 12/10/2024 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:05 AM **Departure:** 1:45 PM

FR-9900108246
Portugal, Maria D
730 WINDSOR RD Savannah, GA 31419 Chatham County
(912) 224-0480 ppg0703@aol.com

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

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/10/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/24/2023	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)	1	1	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	3	4	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	2	2	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	1	6	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	7	13	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	7				

Children Present: 7
Total Children: 13
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2
Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2

More than 6 for pay
6 for pay present & no-pay present does not have a notorized no-pay statement

Comments
An in person licensing study was conducted 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 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) **Met**

Comment
A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

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

Comment
Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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: 13 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 5**

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Release Person Information - (.08)(10),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Release Person Information - (.08)(10),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form,Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1)

Child # 10 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Release Person Information - (.08)(10),Proof of No Liability Insurance Form

Child # 13 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Infant Feeding Plan - (.10)(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 Child #4, #6, and #10 did not have completed records to include 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.

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

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

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 that Child #4, #6, and #10 did not have notice of No Liablity Insurance included in their files.

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

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

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 Child #3, #4, #10, and #13 did not have evidence of immunizations or a signed affidavit 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: 12/11/2024

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 of records that Child #4, #6, and #10 did not have files that included known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities.

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

Correction Deadline: 12/11/2024

Finding
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 observation that the parents that dropped off children on this date did not document the time of drop off. Additionally, it was determined based on a review of records that during the month of December, the Parents did not document each time the children were dropped off and picked up.

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: 12/10/2024

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

Finding
290-2-3-.08(3)requires the Home to obtain Parental authorization at the time of a Child's enrollment for emergency medical care when the Parent is not available. It was determined based on a review of records that Child #4, #6, and #10 did not have Parental authorization for emergency medical care on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home Provider will have authorization for emergency medical care completed by the Parent for Children enrolled.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

Facility

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

Comment
Home observed complete emergency drills

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) **Met**

Comment
The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR) **Met**

Comment
The outside area appears clean and well maintained.

Health and Hygiene

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

Comment
Proper hand washing observed throughout the Home.

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

Comment
Proper diapering procedures observed.

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) **Not Met**

Finding
290-2-3-.04(1)(d) requires a person that provides care for more than six children for pay, related or unrelated, as defined in these rules, shall make application to the Department for a license to operate a Child Care Learning Center, except as provided in 290-2-3-.07(15). It was determined based on observation that Child #5 arrived at 9:58 a.m., which made seven children for pay in attendance on this date. The child remained present for care throughout the entire time the consultant was present for the visit and exceeded the time which the Home is licensed to care for two additional children from 10:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Family Child Care Learning Home caring for more than six children shall reduce the number of children in care to six. The Family Child Care Learning Home will submit an application for a Child Care Learning Center and receive a license to operate from the Department before caring for more than six children, related or unrelated, for pay.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024

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) **Met**

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

Comment
The provider and/or the home's employee were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

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

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 Staff Qualifications(CR) **Met**

Comment
Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Finding
290-2-3-.07(15) requires the Home to ensure that the total number of Children not Related to the Provider in the Family Child Care Learning Home, for pay or not for pay, cannot exceed six Children, except that a Provider may care for two additional children who are three years of age or older for two designated one hour periods daily upon approval approved by the Department. It was determined based on observation that the total number of children not related to the provider, for pay, was seven and exceeded six children as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will reduce the number of unrelated children, both for pay and not for pay, so that the total number of unrelated children in care does not exceed the number of children as specified in these rules.

Correction Deadline: 12/20/2024

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

Finding
290-2-3-.07(17) 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 an infant was placed in a playpen for nap in the back bedroom with the door closed for approximately 15 minutes until the consultant inquired about the child and Staff #2 showed her where the child was to nap. Additionally, two children took afternoon nap in another bedroom towards the back side of the house without staff present for supervision as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Home will ensure that either the Provider or at least one Staff person with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination supervises the children at all times as required by the rules. The Home will develop or update a plan to obtain additional Staff help in case of an emergency.

Correction Deadline: 12/10/2024