



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: 2/11/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 9:00 AM **Departure:** 12:30 PM

FR-24536

Neal, Sherlynn T

5002 HAMDEN COURT Evans, GA 30809 Columbia County
(706) 339-0127 sherry.neal47@comcast.net

Regional Consultant

Christina Jennings

Phone: (404) 463-0970

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christina.jennings@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.
02/11/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/31/2024	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
09/11/2024	Monitoring Visit	Support	

Ratio Capacity					
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	4	5	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	6	4	0	1	0
3 & 4 Years	2	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	12	10	0	1	0
Total Under 18 Years	12				
Children Present: 12 Total Children: 13					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 2					
More than 6 for pay					
6 for pay present & no-pay present does not have a notarized no-pay statement					

Comments

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

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 technical 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)

Not Met

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 the television that was sitting on top of the white cubby shelf was not secured and posed as a potential tipping hazard in the bottom level classroom of the home. It was further determined that five out of five four tier storage shelves were not secured in the children's hand washing area and accessible to children on the right and left sides of the garage posing as a potential tipping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will secure any identified equipment and/or furniture to prevent from tipping or falling over on a child. The Home Provider will ensure that all potentially dangerous equipment is maintained secure.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2025

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

There is no pool on the property

Facility

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 in the the children's hand washing area that was located in the garage:

- One gallon of Odo Ban in front of the hand washing sink.
- A vacuum cleaner on the left side of the entrance door.
- One quart of Citri Strip paint and varnish stripping gel.
- One quart of Varathane Wood Stain.
- Three containers of wall paint.
- One package of a Dehumidifier Drain Hose.
- Three one gallon cans of Behr paint with primer.
- One quart of Rust-Oleum paint.
- One aerosol can of adhesive remover.
- A putty knife.
- A knife block with four knives.
- Gardening tools
- Two aerosol cans of Loctite Tite Foam.
- One aerosol can of WD-40.
- One aerosol can of Rust-Oleum Gloss Protective Enamel.
- One spray bottle of Rainx Glass Cleaner.
- One spray bottle of Oreck Wood Floor Cleaner.
- A container of High Gloss Finish Sealer.
- Two gallons of Clorox Bleach in an unlocked cabinet under the hand washing sink.

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: 2/11/2025

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

Technical Assistance

Comment

The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.13(1)(d) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the fire place is not accessible to children on this date.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2025

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 upon observation that the following hazards were accessible to children:

- An eight foot ladder propped against the home located at the front of the outdoor play area.
- A green garden hose that was unraveled on the ground at the front of the outdoor play area.
- Two containers of plant food on the left side of the plastic bench on on the outdoor deck.
- Exposed tree roots through out the playground.
- Three rose bushes with exposed thorns in front of the deck on the outdoor play area.
- A pink plastic storage tub with nine inches of standing water on the front bottom of the outdoor play area.

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: 3/28/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.13(2)(d) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the fencing is maintained and secured on this date.

Food Service

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

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.10(3) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the infant feeding plans are current and up to date as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.10(6) - The Consultant and Provider discussed ensuring that the menu requirements are met.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2025

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

Met

Comment

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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.

Safety and Discipline

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

Met

Comment

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

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.

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 a review of records that Staff #3 did not have evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid 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: 3/13/2025

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2024

Corrected on 2/11/2025

.07(9) - Previous citation observed to be corrected in that the Consultant observed documentation of Staff #1, Staff #2, and Staff #3 to have completed ten hours of annual training for the 2024 calendar year on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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 two staff members did not remain on the same level of the children in the home to gather the children's lunch items. It was further determined that a staff member was not seated within an arm's length away while a one-year-old child and five two-year-old children were eating lunch. The staff member was observed to briefly leave the same level of the children in the home to retrieve the children's milk.

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.

