



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: 1/16/2024 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 1:05 PM **Departure:** 2:25 PM

FR-000005408

Smith, Merry W

352 ELIZABETH CIRCLE Tifton, GA 31794 Tift County
(229) 326-2999

Regional Consultant

Jackqueline Frederick

Phone: (229) 386-3247

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Mailing Address

352 ELIZABETH CIRCLE
TIFTON, GA 31794

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.
01/16/2024	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/31/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/23/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Data retrieval failed for the subreport, 'Subreport2', located at: Koala.Reports.Visits.RDLC.SubVisitRatio.rdlc. Please

Comments

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a monitoring visit.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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@dec.al.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-.12 Equipment and Supplies(CR)

Met

Comment

Toys and equipment observed to be clean and safe from hazardous conditions.

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.19(1)(b)1 requires that cots and mats shall be of sound construction and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably the size and weight of the child. Mats must be in good repair, washable, covered with waterproof material and at least two inches (2") thick. It was determined that the home did not have (2") thick cots or mats available for the children in care as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will repair or replace cots and mats so they meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 1/26/2024

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2023

Corrected on 1/16/2024

.19(2)(c) - Citation observed corrected on this date.

290-2-3-.07 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Facility

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

Met

Comment

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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**

Home does not provide swimming activities.

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)**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 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records**Records Reviewed: 2****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Staff # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Criminal Records Check -.21(1)(a), Copy Of Satisfactory Criminal Records Check -.21(1)(c)

290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.21(1)(b) requires every Provider to have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before residing in the Home. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the license date; provided, however, if the Provider has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based a review of files that the provider is present without a current Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will ensure that the Provider has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Home. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2024

Finding

290-2-3-.21(1)(m)3. requires that a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination be completed for the Provider and each Employee and Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined that the provider is present with an expired Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 1/16/2024

290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

290-2-3-.08 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.08(14) requires that documentation of training be maintained in the Home and include the following: 1) title of training, 2) date of training, 3) number of clock hours obtained and 4) name(s) of trainers/sponsoring organizations. It was determined that the provider did not have evidence of annual training as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure that complete training information is on file.

Correction Deadline: 12/31/2024

Recited on 1/16/2024

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)**Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.