



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: 8/15/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:35 AM **Departure:** 1:30 PM

FR-000011496

Rakestraw, Shirley A.

35 WINDSOR WAY Oxford, GA 30054 Newton County
(770) 787-8920

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

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Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: ★ ★

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.
08/15/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/04/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/25/2024	TA Follow Up	NA	

Ratio Capacity					
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	5	5	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	1	1	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	7	7	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	7				
Children Present: 7 Total Children: 7 Caregivers/Helpers Present: 6 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 6					
More than 6 for pay 6 for pay present & no-pay present does not have a notarized no-pay statement					

Comments

Background checks were reviewed. The Consultant completed the exit conference, and a copy of the report was email to the Provider.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date



For additional information regarding any licensing topics discussed during this visit, please consult the Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual. This manual provides comprehensive clarification of each rule, including evaluation indicators, related best practices, and relevant considerations to support your program's continued and sustained compliance.

To access the Indicator Manual, please scan the QR code below or visit our website at <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>.

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 Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.12(4) requires that all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment shall be used in a safe and appropriate manner by each Provider, Provisional Employee and Employee and child in attendance and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. Based on observation, children were in child seats that were placed on the sofa in the living room, creating a possible tumbling hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will discontinue inappropriate use of furniture/materials/equipment and ensure that all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment is used in a safe manner and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and/or recommendations for intended use.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.12(5) requires all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment shall be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint and kept clean. It was determined based on observation the wall mirror in the reading area was not secured on the wall and was cracked, leaving small holes in the wall.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will repair or replace any identified hazardous or unclean equipment and will monitor all indoor and outdoor equipment to ensure it is free from hazards and kept clean.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.19(1)(a)3 requires that each crib and other equipment approved for infant sleep shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation four of four sheets were not tight-fitting in infant sleeping equipment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure that each crib or other equipment approved for infant sleep has a tight-fitting sheet that is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 7**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Child # 2	Not Met
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"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Mom Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 3	Not Met
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"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Name Missing - (.08)(1),Date of Birth Missing -(.08)(1),Parents Names Missing -(.08)(1),Mom Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Mom Home # Missing -(.08)(1),Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4),Infant Feeding Plan - (.10)(4),Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

Child # 4	Not Met
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"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Mom Work # Missing -(.08)(1),Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

Child # 5	Not Met
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"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Infant Feeding Plan - (.10)(4)

Child # 6	Not Met
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"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1),Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

Child # 7	Not Met
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"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2)

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 observation the home did not have an enrollment application for child #3. -child #4 lacked the mother's work number and the physician contact information. -child #5 and #6 lacked the physician contact information and the release to person information.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

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 review child # 2 # 4 and # 7 did not have evidence of age-appropriate immunization.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.08(8) requires that the Provider establish written policies and procedures, keep them current, make them consistent with applicable laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, regulations, and these rules, make them available to Parents and use them to govern the operation of the Family Child Care Learning Home. It was determined that based on review the home did not have written policies and procedures.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure current written policies and procedures are available and followed.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) - 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.dec.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> or through the Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome found at: <https://dontshake.org/>.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Facility	
290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant - Safe Environment	Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.13(1)(g) requires that measures be used to prevent the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin on the premises, Windows and doors used for ventilation shall be screened. It was determined based on observation a roach was observed crawling underneath a mattress in one of four sleep and play equipment and crawling on the blue table in the child care room.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will use effective pest control methods, check the premises regularly and follow up immediately if any problems are noted. The Home will only leave screened windows and doors for ventilation and will not leave unscreened windows and doors open.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2025

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

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

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 there was no operable fire extinguisher in the home.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The home provider will ensure that a working smoke detector is on each floor and a working fire extinguisher is available in the child care area as required, and is maintained inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2025

290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.13(1) requires that the Home be clean and free from hazards. It was determined based on observation that the following hazards were observed:

- The flooring material was lifting in several places in the bathroom and the entrance to the living room where the children were, creating a possible tripping hazard.
- There were gaps on the rail of the walkway to the entrance of the home on the left side measured at seven inches wide.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure the cleanliness and safety of the environment, the Home Provider will make hazardous items inaccessible to the children.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Comment

Discussed loose rail was loose on the gate on the left side, which had exposed nails.

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 there was multiple plug located behind the sleeping equipment in the front room of the home.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will not use multiple plugs and electric extension cords and will check regularly to ensure electrical outlets are plugged or covered.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

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 on observation, that the following playground hazards were observed:

- There were four bolts exposed at the joint of the landscape timber surrounding the climbing structures.
- On the left middle side of the patio, there was a circular hole in the wood flooring material with black charred edges and beneath the opening, one structural beam was damaged with blackened charred edges.
- There were several nails exposed on the bottom of the ramp.
- There were several loose shingles on the ramp, creating a possible slipping hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will repair any and all identified outdoor hazards by securing the nails and replaced all damaged planks 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: 8/25/2025

Comment

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Food Service

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements: 3 Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk 5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk 2 of 5 Components for snack Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers. The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website: DECAL <http://decal.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx> USDA <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.10(4) - The consultant discussed with the provider that all baby bottles be clearly labeled with the individual child's name. Formula or breast milk shall be supplied by the Parent daily in bottles. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. Bottles shall be refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. If formula must be provided by the Home, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

Health and Hygiene**290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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 there was no warm running water in the bathroom. The cold and hot water had been turned off. In addition, it was observed that the younger children's hands were washed with hand wipes after diapering.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

To ensure proper hygiene, all children will wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

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

290-2-3-.11(1)(f) -The consultant discussed with the provider that diapers are required to be changed in the Child's own crib or on a nonporous surface which is cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single use disposable towel after each diaper change.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025

290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)**Met****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 that the home cared for more than six children for pay.

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.

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 observation, the home did not have a vaccination record for a dog that was observed leashed on the front porch of the home, upon consultant arrival.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will ensure that all animals are properly vaccinated and that unconfined animals are not allowed in child care areas.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025**290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

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

290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit**Met****Comment**

Complete first aid kit observed in the Family Child Care Learning Home

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

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

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

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.07(8)(b) - Discussed that effective July 1, 2025, new staff are required to obtain pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training within 45 days of employment. It was further discussed that Homes must have at least one person with current pediatric First Aid and pediatric CPR training present during field trips, transportation of children, and on the Home's premises whenever any Child is present.

Correction Deadline: 8/15/2025**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**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.07(7)(a)-(j) - New - : Discussed that all Employees, including volunteers, independent contractors, students-in-training, etc. should have a completed initial program orientation form on file.

Correction Deadline: 9/14/2025

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 - 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: 9/14/2025

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Not Met

Finding

290-2-3-.07(16) 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 there were seven children in attendance on the day of the visit.

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: 8/25/2025

290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR)

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.