



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: 7/30/2025 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:30 AM **Departure:** 12:45 PM

FR-22483

Browne-Joseph, Sharon L

40 Sunflower Lane Covington, GA 30016 Newton County
(770) 342-9729 sbrownejoseph1@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

Phone: (770) 357-7016

Fax: (770) 357-7015

cassandra.jakes-beasley@dec.al.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.
07/30/2025	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
08/20/2024	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/10/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratio Capacity					
Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	2	2	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	3	3	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	1	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	6	6	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	6				
Children Present: 6 Total Children: 6					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

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

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 user id 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 LS:

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

Comment

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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 the sheets in two pack and play sleeping equipment were not tight-fitting.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will remove sheets from equipment or obtain other equipment approved for infant sleep with a tight-fitting sheet that is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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

Met

Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 6

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 2

Child # 5

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)

Child # 6

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Infant Feeding Plan - (.10)(4), Release Person Information - (.08)(10), Allergy/Medical Information - (.08)(4), Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3), Physician & Emergency Contact Information - (.08)(1)

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 review the Provider did not have enrollment applications for a sibling group that started on his date, July 30, 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025**Technical Assistance**

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

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025**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 the provider did not obtain Parental authorization at the time of a Child's enrollment for emergency medical care for two siblings.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will have authorization for emergency medical care completed by the Parent for Children enrolled.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025**Facility****290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met**

Finding

290-2-3-.11(2)(b) requires the Home to have an operable and readily available telephone in the Home with the following telephone numbers posted in a conspicuous place next to the telephone: a physician or hospital, an ambulance or rescue squad service, the local fire department, the local police department, the county health department and the regional poison control center. In those areas of the state serviced by the 911 emergency number, 911 may be posted in lieu of the phone numbers required for ambulance, fire and police. It was determined that the emergency numbers were not posted in a conspicuous place.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will install an operable telephone and will post a complete listing of the required emergency numbers.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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 observation the Home did not have documentation of the required drills, for fire, tornado and other emergencies..

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Provider will develop and implement a plan and schedule for conducting the required drills, completing the documentation, keeping the documentation on file for two years.

Correction Deadline: 8/29/2025

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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.13(1)(e) -The Consultant discussed with the Provider the use of multiple plugs and electric extension cords are prohibited. Electrical outlets within reach of children shall be plugged or covered.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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 there were several wasps flying in the children's play area.

- there was a hot tub containing at least twelve inches of water on the right side of the play area and it was not enclosed with a barrier.

- the air conditioner on the left side of the play area was also not enclosed with a barrier.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will enclose the hot tub with four feet lock fence, enclosed the AC unit and treat the area for wasps. In addition, the Provider 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: 8/9/2025

Prior Visits: 04/03/2023

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://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx> USDA <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks> . Please ensure that a current menu is available.

Finding

290-2-3-.10(3) requires a signed written feeding plan for children less than one (1) year of age be obtained from Parent(s). Instructions from the Parent(s) shall be updated regularly as new foods are added or other dietary changes are made. The feeding plan shall be posted in the main child care area and must include the child's feeding schedule, the amount of formula or breast milk to be given, instructions for the introduction of solid foods, the amount of food to be given and notation of any type(s) of commercially premixed formula which may not be used in an emergency because of food allergies. It was determined based on review the Provider did not have a written feeding plan for a child less than one(1) years-old.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis.

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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

Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025

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

Staff stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

Staff stated 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 Animals****Met****Comment**

The Family Child Care Learning Home does not keep animals on premises.

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

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

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**

Consultant requested to view all Criminal Record checks for employees hired after last visit. Provider stated that there have been no new hires since last visit

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

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

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**Not Met****Technical Assistance**

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

Correction Deadline: 8/29/2025

Finding

290-2-3-.07(9)(a) requires that every calendar year, after the first year of employment the Provider, Provisional Employees or and Employees, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review the Provider did not have ten (10) clock hours of diverse training for the 2024 calendar year.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will obtain the required annual training for Staff and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file or within the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS). The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

Correction Deadline: 8/29/2025

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: 8/29/2025

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**

The consultant discussed with the Provider supervision of the children when the door is answered.