



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: 7/31/2023

VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 3:00 PM

Departure: 5:00 PM

FR-00005408

Smith, Merry W

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 FR-00005408 merrywandasmith77@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Jackqueline Frederick

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Mailing Address

352 ELIZABETH CIRCLE
 TIFTON, GA 31794

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
07/31/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing
01/23/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/02/2022	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)	4	3	0	1	0
1 & 2 Years	2	3	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	0	0	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	1	0	0	1	0
Total Under 13 Years	6	6	0	1	0
Total Under 18 Years	7				
Children Present: 7			Total Children: 8		
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1			Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1		
Helper Needed					

Comments

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

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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@dec.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Merry Smith, Program Official

Date

Jackqueline Frederick, Regional Consultant

Date



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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

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(2)(c) requires that staff shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant such as but not limited to crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined that two cribs were observed to have soft toys with a mini blanket attached, both cribs had babies inside.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will ensure cribs only contain and no additional objects other than a pacifier.

Correction Deadline: 7/31/2023

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

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

Home does not provide swimming activities.

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

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

Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date.

Safety and Discipline

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment

Please replace/add missing/expired item(s) in first aid kit(s).

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 Staff Qualifications(CR) **Met**

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

290-2-3-.08 Staff Training **Defer**

Defer

290-2-3-.08(14)-Provider will obtain training for the current year.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

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

Correction Deadline: 1/23/2023

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Comment

Discussed ages and ratios.

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

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.