



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: 2/22/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

Arrival: 9:55 AM

Departure: 11:25 AM

FR-0000440965

Howard, Cathrene

3358 McAfee Rd Decatur, GA 30032 DeKalb County
 (770) 882-8482 cathrenehoward@gmail.com

Region Consultant

Jessica Johnson

Phone: (770) 357-5090

Fax:

jessica.johnson@decalf.ga.gov

Mailing Address

Same

Quality Rated: No

Compliance Zone Designation		
02/22/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
07/18/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
03/03/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing

<p>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.</p> <p>Good Standing - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.</p> <p>Support - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.</p> <p>Deficient - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.</p>

Age Ranges	Children Present	Child For Pay	CAPS	Not for Pay	Provider Children
Infant (0-11 mos)	0	0	0	0	0
1 & 2 Years	2	2	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	6	6	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	2	2	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	10	10	0	0	0
Total Under 18 Years	10				

Children Present: 10	Total Children: 10
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 3	Total Caregivers/Helpers: 3
<p>More than 6 for pay</p> <p>6 for pay present & no-pay present does not have a notorized no-pay statement</p>	

Comments

An on-site inspection was conducted on February 22, 2023 with the Director Cathrene Howard. Background checks were all reviewed on February 22, 2023.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/22/2023

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 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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

Cathrene Howard, Program Official

Date

Jessica Johnson, Consultant

Date



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(Findings 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)

Not Met

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 that rust was observed on the handle bars of the yellow tom cat toy. It was further determined that peeling paint was observed on the red merry-go-round.

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: 2/22/2023

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

Met

Comment

Currently the provider is not caring for infants. (This rule was not evaluated 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

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

Comment

The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

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 a orange extension cord was in the right corner next to the stairs.

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: 3/4/2023

Finding

290-2-3-.13(2)(c) requires that climbing and swinging equipment that are not portable have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment, which is adequately maintained by the Home to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that one inch of resilient surface was observed under the blue swings on the left side of the playground. Six inches of resilient surface are required. It was further determined based on observation that there was one inch of resilient surface under the slide on the left side of the playground. Six inches of resilient surface was required. It was also determined based on observation that no resilient surface was observed under the swings on the right side of the playground. Six inches of resilient surface was required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will ensure that there is an adequate resilient surface under and in the fall zone of climbing and swinging equipment. The Home will inspect equipment and resilient surfacing material regularly and repair or replenish as needed.

Correction Deadline: 3/8/2023

Finding

290-2-3-.13(2)(d) requires that outside play areas be protected from traffic or other hazards by fencing or other barriers at least four feet in height and approved by the Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children. A fence shall be provided around swimming pools to make them inaccessible when not in use. It was determined based on observation that there was a seven and a half inch gap between the fence entrance doors. It was further determined that there was two protruding nails at the entrance gate.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will enclose the outside play area(s) with a four-foot high fence or other Department-approved barrier and inspect regularly to ensure fencing material is safe and any hazards identified are repaired or replaced. The Home will install or repair a fence around swimming pools that makes them inaccessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 2/22/2023

Health and Hygiene

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

Met

Comment

Consultant discussed proper hand washing with the Provider.

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

Comment

There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program.

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 provider cared for more than six children for pay on this date.

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.

Correction Deadline: 2/22/2023

Safety and Discipline

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

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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.

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.