





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](http://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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

Tammy Meissner, Program Official

Date

Kesha McNeal, Consultant

Date



**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

**(Findings Report)**

**Date:** 5/3/2023 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 10:30 AM **Departure:** 12:40 PM

**FR-52817**

**Meissner, Tammy L.**

2757 Scotts Ferry Road Appling, GA 30802 Columbia County  
(706) 445-8365 tammy@doublegapfarm.com

**CCS Coordinator**

Kesha McNeal

Phone: (866) 359-1672

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kesha.mcneal@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Home does not provide swimming activities.

**Comment**

There is no pool on the property

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Home observed complete emergency drills

**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.

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**290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

The Home appears clean and free from hazards.

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**290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

The outside area appears clean and well maintained.

**Food Service**

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**290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition** **Met**

**Correction Deadline: 8/23/2022**

**Corrected on 5/3/2023**

**.10(4) - Previous citation observed corrected in that bottles are being prepared by parents as required.**

**Correction Deadline: 9/2/2022**

**Corrected on 5/3/2023**

**.10(8) - Previous citation observed corrected in that the FCCLH is no longer serving foods that present a choking hazard on this date.**

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the Home.

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

**Correction Deadline: 8/31/2022**

**Corrected on 5/3/2023**

**.11(1)(f) - Previous citation observed corrected in that the facility had replaced the diaper changing pad on this date.**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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**290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

**Licensure**

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**290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date.

**Comment**

Appropriate number of children observed in Family Child Care Learning Home this date. On this date the consultant observed three children for pay and four related children for no pay.

**Safety and Discipline**

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**Comment**

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

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**290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

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**Staff Records**

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**290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

**Comment**

Provider provided one file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

**Correction Deadline: 9/21/2022**

**Corrected on 5/3/2023**

**.07(8) - Previous citation observed corrected in that the staff #5 completed and obtained cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid as required.**

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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**290-2-3-.07 Staff Training** **Met**

**Correction Deadline: 5/13/2023**

**Corrected on 5/3/2023**

**.07(7) - Previous citation observed corrected in that staff #5 obtained health and safety orientation training.**

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**Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision**

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

**Comment**

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

**Finding**

290-2-3-.07(17) requires at least one Staff person with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination shall supervise Children at all times appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child. Such supervision must include, but not be limited to, indoor and outdoor activities, mealtimes, naptime, transportation, field trips, and transitions between activities. "Supervision" means Staff members are providing watchful oversight to the children, volunteers and Students-in-Training. The person(s) supervising in the child care area must be alert, positioned to maximize their ability to hear and see the children at all times, and able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the volunteers and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs. Staff shall be attentive and participating with all children during mealtimes and shall be seated within an arm's length away from children thirty-six (36) months of age and younger. Plans shall be made to obtain additional Staff help in cases of emergencies. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that upon arrival to the facility a staff member was observed to go back inside of the child care area while the children were left un supervised outside on the playground.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will ensure that either the Provider or at least one Staff person with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination supervises the children at all times as required by the rules. The Home will develop or update a plan to obtain additional Staff help in case of an emergency.

**Correction Deadline: 5/3/2023**