



**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:** 3/30/2023    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 12:15 PM

**FR-17264**

**Buckles, Vanessa T**

133 Lake Park Drive Cordele, GA 31015 Crisp County  
(229) 406-8313 vanessabuckles4@icloud.com

**Regional Consultant**

Sondra Paster

Phone: (478) 314-5803

Fax: (478) 314-5811

sondra.paster@dec.al.ga.gov

Joint with: Angela Williams-Jackson

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
03/30/2023	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
09/22/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/31/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

<b>Age Ranges</b>	<b>Children Present</b>	<b>Child For Pay</b>	<b>CAPS</b>	<b>Not for Pay</b>	<b>Provider Children</b>
<b>Infant (0-11 mos)</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1 &amp; 2 Years</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>3 &amp; 4 Years</b>	0	1	0	0	0
<b>School Age(5+) Years</b>	0	2	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 13 Years</b>	0	3	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 18 Years</b>	0				

Children Present: 0	Total Children: 3
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2	Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

**Comments**

The purpose of the visit is to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 03/30/2023

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.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](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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

Vanessa Buckles, Program Official

Date

Sondra Paster, Consultant

Date

Angela Williams-Jackson, 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)**

**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 the provider stated that soft toys are washed once a month.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will wash all soft toys once a week.

**Correction Deadline: 3/30/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Care is not provided for any infant required to be in a crib

**Comment**

Consultant observed cots and mats.

**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)**

**N/A**

**Comment**

Home does not provide swimming activities.

**Comment**

There is no pool on the property

**Children's Records**

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**290-2-3-.08 Children's Records****Not Met****Technical Assistance**

The provider was emailed a copy of the template for the policy and procedures on this date. The provider will ensure that the policy and procedures are given to parents of all enrolled children and have the signed verification in the child's enrollment record.

**Finding**

290-2-3-.08(8)(a) requires that the Family Child Care Learning Home have policies and procedures that shall include a written description of the services to be provided which specifies the following: ages of children served, months of operation, days of operation, hours of operation, dates the Family Child Care Learning Home will be closed, admission requirements, including parental responsibilities for supplying and maintaining accurate required record information and escorting Child to and from the Family Child Care Learning Home; standards fees, payment of fees, fees related to absences and vacations and other charges such as transportation, etc. and transportation provided, if any. It was determined based on observation that the provider was observed to be without the policies and procedures for three of three children enrolled.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will add the missing written policies to the policies and procedures and will update policies and procedures as changes occur in the operation of the Home.

**Correction Deadline: 3/30/2023**

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**290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)****Met****Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

<b>Facility</b>
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**290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met****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 that the provider was observed to be without documentation that tornado drills, lock down drills and review of emergency procedures had been conducted every six months.

**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: 4/29/2023****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)****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 provider was observed to have toys and equipment stored in boxes which resulted in prohibiting free movement of children in the child care area.

**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: 3/30/2023**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The consultant discussed with provider to ensure that grass is maintained.

**Food Service**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Menu observed to meet USDA guidelines.

**Correction Deadline: 3/30/2023**

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

**N/A**

**Comment**

There are no diapered children currently enrolled in the program.

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**290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

**Licensure**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Provider was observed to meet licensing requirements.

**Safety and Discipline**

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**290-2-3-.11 Animals**

**N/A**

**Comment**

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

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The consultant discussed timeout procedures on this date. The provider will ensure that timeout is used as one minute per age of the child.

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

**Comment**

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

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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**

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 date September 22, 2022.

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Comment**

Evidence observed that the provider was certified in First Aid and CPR.

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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**

**Comment**

Annual training requirement and documentation observed for 2022.

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**Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision**

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

**Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

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**290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR)** **Not Evaluated**

**Comment**

There were no children present during the time of the inspection. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)