



**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:** 7/28/2023    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 10:50 AM    **Departure:** 1:00 PM

**FR-51972**

**Kowalsky, Anna K**

7626 Knollview Dr Columbus, GA 31904 Muscogee County  
FR-51972 artssmartscaringhearts@gmail.com

**Regional Consultant**

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@dec.al.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
07/28/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
01/31/2023	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
07/20/2022	Licensing Study	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.

<b>Ratio Capacity</b>					
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	5	6	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	0	0	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 13 Years</b>	5	6	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 18 Years</b>	5				

Children Present: 5	Total Children: 6
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 4	Total Caregivers/Helpers: 3

**Comments**

July 28, 2023--The visit was completed on this date. The findings were discussed with the Provider.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/28/2023

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

Anna Kowalsky, Program Official

Date

Penny Svenson, Regional 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)**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Provider that toys for children under three (3) years of age shall be non-toxic and lead free; too large to be swallowed by a child and not capable of causing asphyxiation or strangulation; free of sharp pieces, edges or points; free of small parts which may be pried off by a child; free of rust and easily cleaned with a disinfectant daily.

**Correction Deadline: 7/28/2023**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**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: 6**

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

Child # 2

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

Child # 3 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

Child # 4 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Emergency Medical Authorization - (.08)(3),Immunization Form - (.08)(2),Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

Child # 6 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

Mom Work # Missing -(08)(1),Dad Work # Missing -(08)(1),Release Person Information - (.08)(10)

**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 a review of records that two of the six files present for children did not have the Child's physician information present. Further, the address was not listed for each person authorized to pick up children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required. An application was provided on this date that reflected all required information for a child enrolled at the program.

**Correction Deadline: 7/28/2023**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.08(2) requires the Home to maintain a file for each Child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations; enrollment in the Home may not continue for more than 30 days without such evidence. It was determined based on a review of records that none of the children present on this date had a current immunization record on file as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will ensure that an immunization record/signed affidavit is on file for each enrolled Child.

**Correction Deadline: 7/28/2023**

**Facility**

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

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Provider that the extinguisher shall be maintained in working order and services as required to ensure working order.

**Correction Deadline: 8/7/2023**

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

**Comment**

The Home appears clean and free from hazards. Consultant discussed with the Provider to ensure exposed outlets on the route to the bathroom were also covered.

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**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 the Consultant's observation that these hazards were present on the playground: limbs that fell from a large tree present on the right of the play area, weeds, and a large amount of leaves that were thick in nature.

**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. The Consultant discussed with the Provider to shift the play area over from under the tree until the tree could be cut down. The Provider stated they were still in the process of getting quotes for having the tree cut down. The Provider also stated the play area would be moved by this weekend and with the continued rain in the forecast the children would not be outside until after the weekend and the play area was moved.

**Correction Deadline: 8/5/2023**

**Recited on 7/28/2023**

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**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

**Comment**

Discussed labeling of "diapering only" areas and staff work stations.

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

**Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

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**Licensure**

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

**Comment**

Appropriate number of children observed in Family Child Care Learning Home this date.

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**Safety and Discipline**

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

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

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**290-2-3-.11 First Aid Kit****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

The Consultant discussed with the Provider that these items were required to be present in the first aid kit and would be checked on the following regulatory visit: scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, thermometer, adhesive tape, band-aids, insect - sting preparation, antiseptic cleaning solution, antibacterial ointment, bandages, disposable rubber gloves, protective eyewear, facemask, and cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored in a central location so that it is not accessible to Children but is easily accessible to the Provider and Staff. The Home must also maintain written directions for the use of universal precautions for handling blood and bodily fluids. The directions on the use of universal precautions must be kept with the first aid kit at all times.

**Correction Deadline: 8/7/2023**

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

<b>Staff Records</b>
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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.

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

<b>Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision</b>
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**290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR)****Met****Comment**

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.