



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

Cover Sheet

Date: 6/9/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

Arrival: 10:40 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

FR-17136

Gerhartz, Michaela M

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(404) 552-3470 michelle.mgm@comcast.net

Mailing Address

6269 SAYLER PARK
LITHONIA, GA 30058-6440

Regional Consultant

Kesha McNeal

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Joint with: Kajora McCoy

Quality Rated: No

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			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.
06/09/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/09/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
03/15/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

Ratios/License Capacity

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	4	5	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	1	0	0	1	0
School Age(5+) Years	0	1	0	0	0
Total Under 13 Years	5	6	0	1	0
Total Under 18 Years	5				
Children Present: 5 Total Children: 7					
Caregivers/Helpers Present: 2 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1					

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on June 21, 2022. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A in person visit was conducted on June 9, 2022 with the Provider.

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.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 06/09/2022

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



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!

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)

Michaela Gerhartz, Program Official

Date

Kesha McNeal, Consultant

Date

Kajora McCoy, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 6/9/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 10:40 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

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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

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.12(11) - Please ensure that the toys for children under three are age appropriate.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.12(4) - Please ensure that all indoor and outdoor furniture, activity materials, and equipment shall be used in a safe and appropriate manner by each Provider, Provisional Employee and Employee and child in attendance and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use. On this date the consultant observed indoor equipment that required batteries that were not provided causing the toys to not be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022

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 the consultant's observation that the following potential hazardous items were observed:

- The radio flyer located outdoors on the playground was missing the end caps to the tricycle causing a potential finger entrapment.
- The little tikes house located outdoors had a sharp edge located on the left bottom section causing a potential pinching hazard. The little tikes house also was not kept clean as required.
- There was a glass vase located under the deck outdoors accessible to children.

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: 6/9/2022

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

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.

Comment

There is no pool on the property

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

290-2-3-.08 Children's Records**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.08(1) - Please ensure that the Home has 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.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.08(9) - Please ensure that the Parent or person(s) authorized by the Parent or guardian to drop off and pick up the Child document each time the Parent or authorized person drops off and picks up the Child. The documentation shall include at least the following information: the date, the Child's name, the arrival and departure times, and the signature or initials of the Parent or authorized person and shall be made available to the Department in printed or written form upon request.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022

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

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

Facility

Comment

Home observed complete emergency drills

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.11(2)(d) - Please ensure that hanging cords are inaccessible to children. On this date the consultant observed hanging cords on the outside of the home on the right side near the gate of the playground as well as there was a hanging cable cord on the left hand side of the house. Lastly there was a hanging cord in a blue cabinet inside accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.11(2)(f) - Please ensure that hazardous materials be in locked areas or inaccessible to children. On this date the consultant observed the following potential hazards:

- Paint Materials accessible to children in care. That stated keep out of reach of children.
- A double "A" battery located on a low shelf accessible to children.
- There was an Aloe Vera Plant located on a low window seal accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022

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)**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.13(1) - Please ensure that the Home is kept free from hazards. On this date the consultant observed the border to the outside playground to not be in good repair and attached, causing a potential tripping hazard.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022

290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Comment**

290-2-3-.13(2)(a) Ensure that sweet gum balls, which pose a potential tripping hazard, are removed from the playground.

Correction Deadline: 6/19/2022

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 the following potential hazards existed in that:

- There was a bag of Pelletized Lawn lime on the steps going out to the playground accessible to children.
- There was a plastic bag located on the route to the playground accessible to children.
- There was a discarded pool float located with standing water located under the deck accessible to children.
- There was discarded weights for a weight bench located on the left front section accessible to children.
- There was thorny plants located on the left back section, the right middle section of the playground, and there was thorny plants growing through the back of the flower bed accessible to children
- There was discarded plant bowls located on the back section of the playground.
- There was standing water located in the following equipment: Radio Flyer, the sand toys located on the blue table, the blue wheel barrow, the black wheel barrow, the art easel.
- There was a Jungle growth Flower Vegetable Professional mix located on the back middle section of the playground.
- There was a rake located on the back middle sections accessible to children.

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: 6/19/2022

Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.13(2)(d) - Please ensure that the Fencing material does not present a hazard to children. On this date the consultant observed spots of splintering located on the middle section of the fencing near the plant in the blue flower pot accessible to children.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022

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

290-2-3-.11(1)(j) -Please ensure that children's hands are washed with liquid soap and warm running water: immediately upon arrival for the day and re-entering the child care area after outside play; before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, and playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, contact with bodily fluids such as, but not limited to, mucus, saliva, vomit or blood, and after contamination by any other means. On this date the consultant observed the children to not wash their hands before lunch as required.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022

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

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)**Not Evaluated****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.

Comment

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

Safety and Discipline**290-2-3-.11 Animals****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.11(1)(n) requires pets in the Home be properly vaccinated in accordance with the requirements of the local county Boards of Health. Unconfined pets shall not be permitted in child care areas when any Child is present except for supervised learning experiences. It was determined based on the consultant's review that one of two pets in the home did not have current vaccinations on file as required in that the vaccination records for one of the pets expired on March 5, 2022.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home will ensure that all animals are properly vaccinated and that unconfined animals are not allowed in child care areas.

Correction Deadline: 6/9/2022

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

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Please add missing item(s) in first aid kit(s): Tweezers.

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

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

Staff Records

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

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

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

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

290-2-3-.07 Provider Qualifications	Technical Assistance
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Technical Assistance

290-2-3-.07(5) - Please ensure that prior to assignment to children or task, the Provider must receive initial program orientation and keep documentation on file as required.

Correction Deadline: 6/10/2022

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

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

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

Annual training requirement and documentation observed.

Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

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

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.