



**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:** 11/21/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 11:40 AM

**Departure:** 3:00 PM

**FR-000011073**

**Benn, Itza M.**

5000 Bonnybrook Way Columbus, GA 31907 Muscogee County  
FR-000011073 ITZA.BENN@YAHOO.COM

**Regional Consultant**

Penny Svenson

Phone: (470) 346-1037

Fax: (678) 891-5613

penny.svenson@decals.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:**

<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.
11/21/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
06/16/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
12/29/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

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

**Comments**

November 21, 2022--The visit was completed on this date. An Affidavit and a One-day letter was left with the Provider.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 11/21/2022

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

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!**

Itza Benn, 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-.09 Activities**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.09(3) requires that outdoor activities be provided daily, weather permitting. It was determined based on the Provider's statement that children were not permitted outdoor play because the play area had not been cleaned.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will follow a schedule that allows for all children to have daily outside play.

**Correction Deadline: 11/21/2022**

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.12(3) requires furniture and equipment to be kept clean and in a safe usable condition. It was determined based on the Consultant's observation that there was furniture stacked on top of other furniture and paperwork stacked on the furniture along the right wall as the FCCLH was entered and a fall hazard was posed to children and the Provider.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will clean, repair, and/or replace any item(s) noted and will maintain furniture and equipment so they are clean, safe and usable.

**Correction Deadline: 11/22/2022**

**Recited on 11/21/2022**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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

Home does not provide swimming activities.

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<b>Facility</b>
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**290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.11(2)(f) requires that poisons, medicines, cleaning agents and other hazardous materials be in locked areas or inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that a can of Lysol and the Provider's purse were present on top of a shelf and children had access to both items.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

To ensure the safe storage of hazardous items, the Home Provider will make these items inaccessible to the children.

**Correction Deadline: 11/21/2022**

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

The Consultant discussed ways the Provider could get rid of clutter in the area the children were cared for.

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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 Provider's statement that the playground had not been cleaned and possible hazards were present. The playground could not be inspected on this date because there was a Pitbull chained up and the dog growled and barked in a vicious manner on this date.

**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: 12/1/2022****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 four inch gap present in the gate that led to the playground from the carport. Further, the gate that led to the swimming pool could not be observed for compliance, because there was a pit bull present in that area.

**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. A pool noodle will be zip tied to the fence post to close the gap.

**Correction Deadline: 11/22/2022**

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<b>Food Service</b>
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**290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition** **Met**

**Correction Deadline: 6/16/2022**

**Corrected on 11/21/2022**

**The correction was observed on this date.**

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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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**

**Comment**

The provider stated appropriate diapering procedures.

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

**Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

<b>Licensure</b>
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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.

<b>Safety and Discipline</b>
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**290-2-3-.11 Animals** **Not Met**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.11(o) requires the Home control pets and other animals to maintain proper sanitation and ensure animals are not a hazard to anyone. No animal that may be vicious is permitted on the premises while children are present. Farm animals cannot be housed within 500 feet of the home. It was determined based on observation that the Consultant observed a Pitbull chained on the Provider's property next to the play area and the dog appeared to be vicious when it growled and barked at the Consultant.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will ensure that proper sanitation is maintained and that animals are not a hazard to anyone on the premises of the Home. Any animal that may have a vicious propensity, shall not be allowed on the premises of the Home any time children are present. Any farm animals on the property, must not be housed within 500 feet of the Home.

**Correction Deadline: 11/22/2022**

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and redirection were observed on this date.

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

**Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

**290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.21(1)(a) requires the Home to ensure that the Provider, every actual and potential Employee(including residents age 17 and older) and Provisional Employee of the Family Child Care Learning Home has submitted both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff Member #2 was present and had not submitted both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will ensure that every actual and potential Provider, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Family Child Care Learning Home submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/22/2022****Finding**

290-2-3-.21(1)(b) requires every Provider to have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before residing in the Home. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the license date; provided, however, if the Provider has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff Member #1 did not have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child was present for care or before residing in the Home.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will ensure that the Provider has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Home. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/22/2022****Finding**

290-2-3-.21(1)(c) requires every Employee to have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before residing in the Home if age 17 or older. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff Member #2 was present in the home and did not have a current and valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child was present for care or before residing in the Home if age 17 or older.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Home while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Home. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/22/2022**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.21(1)(m)3. requires that a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination be completed for the Provider and each Employee and Provisional Employee at least once every five years. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff Member #1 had a Criminal Record Check which expired on September 26, 2022.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Home will ensure that each Director, Employee and Provisional Employee has a Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file that has been issued within the past five years. The provider must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Home will ensure CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/22/2022**

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**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.

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

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.