





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



### Important New Deadlines:

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, the deadline to become Quality Rated for programs who want to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), has been extended to at least December 31, 2021.

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov)

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), e-mail the following information to [CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov).

- 1) Facility name, license number and visit date
- 2) Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
- 3) Specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Franca Zarrelli, Program Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn McBurse, Consultant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Whitten, 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:** 10/7/2021    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:00 AM    **Departure:** 11:00 AM

**FR-25382**

**Zarrelli, Franca**

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**Regional Consultant**

Evelyn McBurse

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Joint with: Stacy Whitten

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed.

**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

### 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

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.08(1) - Consultant discussed with provider to ensure that all children's records are completely filled out with doctor's information and parent's work information.

**Correction Deadline: 10/7/2021**

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.08(9) - The consultant discussed with the provider to ensure that parents initial sign in and sign out times each day.

**Correction Deadline: 10/7/2021**

<b>Facility</b>
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**290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Met****Comment**

During the virtual walk through of the program, Consultant discussed Emergency Preparedness plans and updating them on a regular basis.

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

Please ensure to monitor the playground areas for the following hazards: - Normal wear and tear of playground equipment and toys. Potential entrapment hazards in the fence surrounding the playground area. Biting and/or stinging insects (i.e. ants, bees, etc.). Loose and/or weak tree branches surrounding the playground area. Standing water in and around playground equipment after inclement weather. Fall zones and resilient surface.

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.13(2)(a) - The consultant discussed with the provider to ensure that the small storage building is locked.

**Correction Deadline: 10/17/2021**

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.13(2)(c) - The consultant discussed with the provider to make sure that the fall zones and the depth of the resilient surface are as required: A Minimum of four (4) feet perimeter fall (use) zone around entrance/ladder end of slide.

A minimum of five (5) feet perimeter fall (use) zone around the exit and out from sides of slide at exit region.

Stand alone climbers (i.e. arch climbers, dome climbers [jungle gyms], overhead horizontal ladders [monkey

bars], spiral climbers – at least four feet in all directions from climbing structures (i.e. climbers/ladders) Resilient

Surface: Three (3) inches of loose fill surfacing for equipment that measures between three and five feet high .

Six (6) inches of loose fill surfacing for swings and equipment over five feet high.

**Correction Deadline: 10/17/2021**

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

Discussed new revision to restricted food rule which states: Foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as, but not limited to, peanuts, hot dogs, raw carrots, popcorn, fish with bones, cheese cubes, grapes and any other food that is of similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe shall not be served to the children less than four (4) years of age. Children older than four (4) years of age may be served these foods provided that the foods are cut in such a way as to minimize choking.

Please ensure the new updated infant feeding form is used. Discussed revision to the written feeding plans for children under the age of 1 years old. Age-appropriate solid foods (including cereal) shall not be given to infants or children less than one (1) year of age until recommended as developmentally appropriate by the child's primary care physician and indicated in writing by the Parent(s). As soon as the feeding plan indicates that a child is ready for solid foods, the child shall be fed from individual spoons and individual containers or dishes. A child shall not be fed directly from the original baby food container if the contents are to be fed to the child at more than one (1) meal or to more than one (1) child.

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**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)****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

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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. The provider cared for five unrelated children for pay on this date.

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**Safety and Discipline**

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

Appropriate vaccination records were available on this date.

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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****Met****Comment**

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

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

290-2-3-.21(1)(a) - The consultant discussed with the provider to follow up with the department and ensure the helper submits a new background check letter application and fingerprints prior to the expiration date 10/10/2021.

**Correction Deadline: 10/7/2021****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. The consultant observed evidence of the provider and helper to have satisfactory comprehensive background check letters on this date.

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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****Correction Deadline: 12/31/2021****Corrected on 10/7/2021**

.07(9) - Correction of the previous citation in that consultant observed evidence of the provider to be in progress of completing her 2021 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.

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

**Comment**

Discussed new revision to the supervision rule which states: 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.