





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

Bertha Thomas, Program Official

Date

Debrik Perry, Regional 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:** 7/21/2023 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:10 AM **Departure:** 10:45 AM

**FR-24490**

**Thomas, Bertha K**

2121 OXFORD ROAD Albany, GA 31721 Dougherty County  
FR-24490 bbd daycare@live.com

**Regional Consultant**

Debrik Perry

Phone: (478) 599-9821  
Fax: (478) 314-5864  
debrik.perry@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

2121 OXFORD ROAD  
ALBANY, GA 31721

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Toys and equipment observed to be clean and safe from hazardous conditions.

**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.

**Children's Records**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Parent authorizations obtained/completed.

**Facility**

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

Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure that the monthly drills are documented as they are completed. Consultant further explained that drills are completed monthly and every six months.

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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****Technical Assistance**

Consultant discussed with the provider to ensure that the following items are flipped and returned to normal use;

- 1) black trashcan
- 2) silver metal sand table holders

**Correction Deadline: 7/31/2023**

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| <b>Food Service</b> |
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**290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.10(6) requires the Home to provide a menu listing all meals and snacks to be served during the current week. Substitutions shall be recorded on the posted menu. Menus shall be retained at the Home for six (6) months. It was determined based on a review of files that the provider could not provide a current menu for the month of July.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will list all of the current week's meals and snacks and all substitutions on the menu and keep past menus on file for six months and will implement a system to monitor this.

**Correction Deadline: 7/21/2023**

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

Staff state proper knowledge of 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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| <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.

## Safety and Discipline

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

**Comment**

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

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

**Comment**

Pleasant interactions observed between the provider and children in care.

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

**Comment**

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

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

**Comment**

The provider does not provide routine transportation.

## Staff Records

**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 on February 7, 2023.

**Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

**290-2-3-.07 First Aid & CPR** **Not Met**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.07(8) requires the Home to maintain for the Provider and any Provisional Employee or Employee with direct care responsibilities current evidence of successful completion of a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid which have been offered by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and which dealt with emergency care for infants and children. Such training must be completed prior to initial licensure for the Provider and within 90 days from date of hire for Provisional Employees and Employees. The Provider, a Provisional Employee or Employee with current CPR and first aid training must always be on the Home's premises and on any field trip whenever any Child is present. It was determined based on a review of records that the provider's CPR and 1ST Aid certificate expired in May, 2023.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will obtain the required CPR and first aid training and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested. The Home will ensure that there is always a Staff person on the Home's premises and on any field trip whenever any Child is present.

**Correction Deadline: 8/20/2023**

**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.

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**290-2-3-.07 Students-in-Training(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

The facility does not currently have any students-in-training employed.

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| <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.