



**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:** 6/16/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 12:15 PM

**Departure:** 1:30 PM

**FR-0000780065**

**Whitehead, Sara J.**

189 STAPLERS BRIDGE ROAD Nicholson, GA 30565 Jackson County  
(706) 757-3534 sarajolittlepeople@gmail.com

**Mailing Address**

189 STAPLERS BRIDGE ROAD  
NICHOLSON, GA 30565

**Regional Consultant**

Lynn Schnitzer

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lynn.schnitzer@dec.al.ga.gov

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
06/16/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing
12/17/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
06/09/2021	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.

**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	2	2	0	0	0
3 & 4 Years	3	3	0	0	0
School Age(5+) Years	2	2	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 13 Years</b>	7	7	0	0	0
<b>Total Under 18 Years</b>	7				

Children Present: 7 Total Children: 7

Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1

**More than 6 for pay**  
6 for pay present & no-pay present does not have a notarized no-pay statement

**Comments**

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a licensing study and to follow up from the previous visit conducted on December 17, 2021. An administrative review was conducted on June 29, 2022. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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/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 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!**

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)

Sara Whitehead, Program Official

Date

Lynn Schnitzer, Consultant

Date



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**Findings Report**

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

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

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.19(1)(b) - Consultant discussed with Director to ensure children who are two (2) years of age or older are provided with individual cots or mats.

**Correction Deadline: 6/26/2022**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.19(2) requires that a Family Child Care Learning Home shall provide a safe sleep environment in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recommendations as listed in these rules for all infants and one-year-old children when placed for sleep in a safety approved crib or in any other type of equipment approved for infant sleep. Staff shall place an infant to sleep on the infant's back unless the Parent has provided a physician's written statement authorizing another sleep position for that particular infant that includes how the infant shall be placed to sleep and a time frame that the instructions are to be followed. When an infant can easily turn over from back to front and back again, Staff shall continue to put the infant to sleep initially on the infant's back, but allow the infant to roll over into his or her preferred positions and not re-position the infant. Sleepers, sleep sacks and wearable blankets that fit according to the commercial manufacturer's guidelines and will not slide up around the infant's face may be used when necessary for the comfort of the sleeping infant, however swaddling shall not be used unless the Home has been provided a physician's written statement authorizing its use for a particular infant that includes instructions and a time frame for swaddling the infant. Staff shall not place objects or allow objects to be placed in or on the crib with an infant such as but not limited to toys, pillows, quilts, comforters, bumper pads, sheepskins, stuffed toys, or other soft items and shall not attach objects or allow objects to be attached to a crib with a sleeping infant such as but not limited to crib gyms, toys, mirrors and mobiles. It was determined based on observation that two children were asleep in Pack And Plays that contained blankets.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will ensure that safe sleep requirements for infants are followed as required.

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

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Pool not in use at this time, gates observed locked. Per the provider, the pool is being removed.

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**Children's Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 7**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1**

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
Immunization Form - (.08)(2)	
Child # 5	Met
Child # 6	Met
Child # 7	Met

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

**Not Met**

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.08(1) - Please ensure that the parents update the following information as needed:

- Parents' work and contact information.
- Parents' work and personal address.
- Emergency contact persons' name and contact information.
- Release to persons' names and address.
- Doctor's name and contact information.

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

**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 review of records that the immunization form for child #4 had had been expired for more than 30 days.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

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

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

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**290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.08(3) requires the Home to obtain Parental authorization at the time of a Child's enrollment for emergency medical care when the Parent is not available. It was determined based on review of records that the provider did not have evidence of parental authorization to obtain emergency medical care on file for seven of seven children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will have authorization for emergency medical care completed by the Parent for Children enrolled.

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

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

290-2-3-.11(2)(a) requires the Home to have a written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to fire, severe weather, loss of electrical power or water, and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Home. The Home will have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, continuity of operations, accommodation of infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions. No Home personnel shall impede in any way the delivery of emergency care or services to a child by licensed or certified emergency health care professionals. It was determined based on review of records that the emergency preparedness plan only had procedures for fire in place.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will complete a written plan for emergencies.

**Correction Deadline: 6/26/2022****Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.11(2)(h) - Consultant observed that the fire extinguisher gauge indicated that the fire extinguisher needed recharging. Per the provider, she is replacing the fire extinguisher.

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

290-2-3-.13(1)(e) - Consultant discussed with provider to ensure that all outlets are covered.

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

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

290-2-3-.13(2)(c) requires that climbing and swinging equipment that are not portable have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment, which is adequately maintained by the Home to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that there was no resilient surfacing under the swinging equipment.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will ensure that there is an adequate resilient surface under and in the fall zone of climbing and swinging equipment. The Home will inspect equipment and resilient surfacing material regularly and repair or replenish as needed.

**Correction Deadline: 6/26/2022**

**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 the provider did not have a fence surrounding the outside play 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.

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

**Food Service**

**290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition**

**Technical Assistance**

**Technical Assistance**

290-2-3-.10(1) - Consultant discussed USDA food guidelines with the provider. The consultant provided meal pattern guidelines and meal planning template to the provider.

**290-2-3-.10 Kitchen Operations**

**Met**

**Comment**

290-2-3-.10(14) - Food storage and preparation area were observed to be clean.

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

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Provider stated proper knowledge of hand washing and hygiene procedures.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The provider stated appropriate diapering procedures.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

**Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

**Licensure**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The consultant observed the provider to care for two unrelated children for pay, two unrelated children not for pay, and three related children not for pay on 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

**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 the provider did not have evidence of CPR and first aid training on file.

**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: 7/30/2022**

**Recited on 6/16/2022**

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Finding**

290-2-3-.07(9) requires that every calendar year, after the first year of employment the Provider, and any Provisional Employees or and Employees, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department- approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained in the Home by the Provider, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that the provider did not have evidence of ten clock hours of diverse training on file.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will obtain the required annual training for Staff and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file. The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2022**

**Recited on 6/16/2022**

**Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Appropriate ratios were observed on this date.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The Provider was observed directly supervising and being attentive to the needs of the children.