



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: 2/11/2020 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:45 AM **Departure:** 1:50 PM

CCLC-16643

Kidz Fortress Childcare Learning Center

2421 Mike Padgett Highway, Suite A Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County
 (706) 798-1072 kidzfortress@comcast.net

Mailing Address
 Same

Regional Consultant

Kaycee Purvis
 Phone: (770) 357-4915
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 kaycee.purvis@decals.ga.gov

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
02/11/2020	Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/26/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/05/2019	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

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	1L	PreK	2	12	C	20	C	28	C	Art
Main	1R	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	21	C	Free Play
Main	2 R	One Year Olds	1	6	C	10	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	2L	Four Year Olds	1	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	3L	Infants	1	6	C	14	C	NA	NA	Nap, Floor Play, Free Play
Main	3R	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	4L	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	2	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Story
Main	4R	One Year Olds	2	8	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	5R	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 123

Total # Children this Date: 69

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 123

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Left	31	C
Main	Right Back	61	C
Main	Right Front Yard	41	C

Comments

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

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@dec.state.ga.us.

- 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://dec.state.ga.us/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)



Important New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

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

Jessica Holmes, Program Official

Date

Kaycee Purvis, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 2/11/2020 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:45 AM **Departure:** 1:50 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study Visit:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - The Director and Consultant discussed removing any torn cardboard blocks from the classroom.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2020

Finding

591-1-1-.12(3) requires that equipment and furniture be placed so as to permit the children's freedom of movement and to minimize danger of accident and collision. It was determined based on observation that there were stacked chairs on top of a table in the 1L Classroom on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will re-position the identified equipment and/or furniture and the director will view each classroom to verify appropriate make changes, as needed, and have a system to monitor these items.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2020

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met

Child # 4 Met

Child # 5 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

591-1-1-.08 Children's Records

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, mental retardation or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. It was determined based on a review of records that Child #5 was missing the address for the authorized release person on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

Center staff will develop a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and how to ensure this is done for future enrollees as well. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time. The plan will be implemented and followed.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2020

Facility

591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(13) requires that potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. It was determined based on observation that the following potential hazards were observed on this date:

- Classroom 1L: Two boxes of gloves were observed on a shelf accessible to children.
- Classroom 2R: A box of gloves were observed on the window sill accessible to children.
- Classroom 4L: A box of gloves were observed on an open shelf under the diaper changing table accessible to children.
- Classroom 4R: A staff member's purse was observed in an unlocked storage cabinet accessible to children. A bottle labeled disinfecting spray, a bottle labeled sanitizer spray, trash bags, a bottle of Member's Mark Ultimate Clean Liquid Dish Soap, and a container of Clorox Disinfecting wipes were located in an unlocked cabinet accessible to children under the sink used for handwashing.
- Classroom 5R: A box of gloves were observed on the window sill accessible to children. Three boxes of gloves were observed accessible to children in an unlocked storage cabinet.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will identify all hazardous items and keep them in a locked area inaccessible to children. The Center will inform all Staff about hazardous items and the safe storage of those items.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2020

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on observation that the wooden fence located on the right back playground was not sturdy and in good repair.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2020**Recited on 2/11/2020****Correction Deadline: 8/28/2019****Corrected on 2/11/2020**

.26(9) - Correction of previous citation in that the consultant observed the playground clean and free of hazards on this date.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.15(2) - The Consultant and Director discussed updating infant feeding plans every three months.

Correction Deadline: 2/11/2020

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**Met****Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)**Met****Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019****Corrected on 2/11/2020**

.20(1) - Correction of previous citation in that the consultant observed completed medication documentation on this date.

Safety

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)**Met****Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Comment**

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019****Corrected on 2/11/2020****.30(2)(c) - Correction of previous citation in that based on staff statements children are not allowed to sleep in equipment other than a safety-approved crib. Staff further stated that when infants do fall asleep in bouncers they are immediately moved to a crib.**

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 05/24/2010	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 11/04/2019	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 08/13/2019	
Staff # 4	Met
Date of Hire: 11/08/2014	
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 07/30/2015	
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 01/06/2020	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 02/13/2012	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 01/08/2018	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019**

Corrected on 2/11/2020

.09(1)(a) - Correction of previous citation in that the consultant observed the most recently issued satisfactory determination letter for each staff on this date.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019

Corrected on 2/11/2020

.09(1)(b) - Correction of previous citation in that the consultant observed the most recently issued satisfactory determination letter for each staff on this date.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR

Technical Assistance

Comment

Evidence observed of 50% of center staff certified in First Aid and CPR.

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.14(3) - The Director and Consultant discussed replacing any expired items in the first aid kit.

Correction Deadline: 2/21/2020

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #1 (hired on 10/21/2019), Staff #4 (hired on 10/28/2019), Staff #5 (hired on 8/15/2019), and Staff #17 (hired on 10/7/2019) did not have evidence of Health and Safety Orientation training on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 2/28/2020

591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.32(4) requires that children under three years old be housed in separate physical areas from older children and cannot be mixed with older children except at specified times and circumstances. It was determined based on observation that two two-year-olds were housed with four three-year-olds and four four-year-olds in the 1R Classroom on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain separation of these children under three years old.

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.