



**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:** 1/19/2021    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 10:30 AM    **Departure:** 12:30 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  
Fax: (404) 478-8085  
kaycee.purvis@decal.ga.gov

**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.
01/19/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/21/2020	Complaint Investigation by Phone	Good Standing	
07/29/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

**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		0	0	C	20	C	28	C	
Main	1R	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	15	C	21	C	Lunch
Main	2 R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	4	C	10	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap
Main	2L		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	3L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	32	C	14	NC	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play, Free Play
Main	3R		0	0	C	16	C	23	C	
Main	4L		0	0	C	9	C	NA	NA	
Main	4R	One Year Olds	1	3	C	8	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	5R		0	0	C	8	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 130				
Total # Children this Date: 48			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 130				

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

### Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on January 19, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on January 27, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

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



### 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.al.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@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov)

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Jessica Holmes, Program Official

Date

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Kaycee Purvis, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

**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: 0**

Child # 1	Met
Child # 2	Met
Child # 3	Met
Child # 4	Met
Child # 5	Met

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 2/11/2020**

**Corrected on 1/19/2021**

**.08(1) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed documentation of completed children's files during an Administrative Review.**

**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)****Met****Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****N/A****Comment**

Playground not observed on this date due to inclement weather.

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

Hand washing and sanitizing requirements for diapering were discussed with the Director on this date.

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

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date.

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director on this date.

**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****Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 16**

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

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Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met
Staff # 5	Met
Date of Hire: 05/24/2010	
Staff # 6	Met
Staff # 7	Met
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 11/04/2019	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 08/13/2019	
Staff # 10	Met
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 11/08/2014	
Staff # 12	Met
Date of Hire: 07/30/2015	
Staff # 13	Met
Date of Hire: 01/06/2020	
Staff # 14	Met
Date of Hire: 02/13/2012	
Staff # 15	Met
Date of Hire: 07/21/2020	
Staff # 16	Met
Date of Hire: 01/08/2018	

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**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3**

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<b>591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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<b>591-1-1-.33 Staff Training</b>	<b>Met</b>
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**Correction Deadline: 2/28/2020**

**Corrected on 1/19/2021**

**.33(3) - Correction of previous citation in that the Consultant observed completed documentation of Health and Safety Orientation training for staff during an Administrative Review.**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
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**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.