



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: 1/25/2018 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:10 AM **Departure:** 2:10 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

Melyn Smith
 Phone: (706) 855-3455
 Fax: (706) 434-7640
 melyn.smith@decal.ga.gov

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
01/25/2018	Licensing Study	Good Standing
07/11/2017	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
07/11/2017	Complaint Closure	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	20	C	20	C	NA	NA	Music
Main	1R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	13	C	15	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Main	2 R	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	10	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	2L	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	3L		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	3R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	16	C	23	C	Nap, Floor Play
Main	4L		0	0	C	9	C	12	C	
Main	4R		0	0	C	16	C	23	C	

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 126

Total # Children this Date: 56

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 126

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

Comments

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 01/25/2018

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).



Reminder: All employees of child care programs must be fingerprinted before **January 1, 2017**. For instructions and to submit records check applications online, please visit www.decalkoala.com. You are encouraged not to wait and to complete the process as soon as possible.

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.

- 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). Sign up for Quality Rated by June 30, 2018 in order to be eligible to receive a bonus package.

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

Jessica Holmes, Program Official

Date

Melyn Smith, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 1/25/2018 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 11:10 AM **Departure:** 2:10 PM

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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) **Met**

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

591-1-1-.32 Staffing/Supervision(CR) **Met**

Comment

No evening care hours provided

Facility

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

Comment

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

Correction Deadline: 7/11/2017

Corrected on 1/25/2018

.19(1) - Previous citation corrected, based on observation, in that all classrooms were operating within licensed capacity on this date.

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 a staff purse was observed hanging on the classroom door and accessible to children in Room 2R. It was further determined that an unlocked cabinet labeled Staff Only was observed to have plastic bags accessible to children in Room 4R.

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: 1/25/2018**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(3) requires the Center and surrounding premises to be kept clean, free of debris and in good repair. Hygienic measures such as, but not limited to, screened windows and proper waste disposal procedures shall be utilized to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin at the Center. It was determined, based on observation that two ceiling tiles in Room 2R were observed to be stained brown and damaged. It was further determined that the cabinet under the sink in Room 2R was observed to be broken with a gap between the doors present.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will have the Center and surrounding areas cleaned, make repairs where needed, and remove all debris is removed. The Center will implement a plan to keep areas clean and in good repair that includes regular monitoring.

Correction Deadline: 2/8/2018

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(6) requires that playground equipment provide an opportunity for the children to engage in a variety of experiences and shall be age-appropriate. For example, toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for School-age Children. The outdoor equipment shall be free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. All equipment shall be arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. It was determined, based on observation, that one of four tricycles on the Right Front Playground was observed to be missing pedals on this date. It was further determined that two of five bicycles on the riding merry-go-round on the Right Front Playground was missing pedals. It was further determined that six of eight swing chains on the Right Back Playground was observed rusted on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will provide a variety of age-appropriate equipment that is arranged so as not to obstruct supervision of children. Staff will check the equipment daily to ensure that the equipment is free of hazards, rust and splinters.

Correction Deadline: 2/8/2018**Correction Deadline: 7/21/2017****Corrected on 1/25/2018**

.26(8) - Previous citation corrected, based on observation, in that the resilient surface was observed to be adequately maintained by the center on this date.

Finding

591-1-1-.26(9) requires the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. It was determined, based on observation, that an active ant bed was observed on the Left Playground near the fence connecting the playground to the Right Back Playground.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will remove any litter and fix or remove hazards from the playground and will routinely monitor the playground and remove litter and hazards.

Correction Deadline: 1/25/2018

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.

Correction Deadline: 7/12/2017

Corrected on 1/25/2018

.17(2) - Previous citation corrected, based on observation, in that all children were observed to appear clean, dry, and comfortable on this date.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals

Met

Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

Comment

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)

Met

Comment

Field trip documentation observed to be complete for the field trip taken December 13, 2017 to the Augusta Mall.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

The vehicle had an approved fire extinguisher and first aid kit on this date.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Met

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 13

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1

Met

Records Reviewed: 13

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Date of Hire: 02/13/2012

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 01/23/2018

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 11/28/2011

Staff # 4 Met

Date of Hire: 07/30/2015

Staff # 5 Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2015

Staff # 6 Met

Date of Hire: 07/13/2017

Staff # 7 Met

Date of Hire: 01/08/2018

Staff # 8 Met

Date of Hire: 09/19/2016

Staff # 9 Met

Date of Hire: 09/14/2009

Staff # 10 Met

Date of Hire: 11/09/2014

Staff # 11 Met

Date of Hire: 04/17/2017

Staff # 12 Met

Date of Hire: 05/14/2012

Staff # 13 Met

Date of Hire: 12/02/2013

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 13

591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR)

Met

Comment

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided 3 files for employees hired since last visit.

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

Met

Comment

Consultant observed Center staff to comply with all applicable laws and regulations on this date.

Correction Deadline: 1/25/2018

Staffing and Supervision

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

Met

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

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

Met

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.