



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: 2/5/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:50 AM **Departure:** 1:15 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

Keshia Hayward

Phone: (678) 717-5129
 Fax: (770) 359-5697
 carrie.spangler@decal.ga.gov

Quality Rated: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
02/05/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/30/2018	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
01/25/2018	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	1	21	C	20	NC	28	C	Free Play
Main	1R	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	21	C	Centers
Main	2 R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	2L	Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds	1	8	C	9	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	3L	Infants and One Year Olds	2	8	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	3R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	10	C	16	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	4L	Two Year Olds	1	6	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	4R	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	12	C	16	C	23	C	Centers

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 130

Total # Children this Date: 82

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

The consultant encouraged the director to attend the webinar regarding criminal record check scheduled for March 1, 2019.

The consultant discussed submitting an amendment due to adding a wall to separate the Main Left Right room into two separate spaces to include the additional space.

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.

- 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

Jessica Holmes, Program Official

Date

Keshia Hayward, 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: 2/5/2019 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:50 AM **Departure:** 1:15 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

Keshia Hayward
Phone: (678) 717-5129
Fax: (770) 359-5697
carrie.spangler@decals.ga.gov

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

Comment

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms **Met**

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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**

Correction Deadline: 8/30/2018

Corrected on 2/5/2019

.25(13) - Citation corrected in that no hazards were observed in spaces accessible to children on this date.

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

Correction Deadline: 8/30/2018

Corrected on 2/5/2019

.26(6) - Citation corrected in that the merry-go-round bicycle was removed from the playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/6/2018

Corrected on 2/5/2019

.26(8) - Citation corrected in that grass was not observed in the surfacing on this date.

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition **Met**

Comment

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

591-1-1-.18 Kitchen Operations **Met**

Comment

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

Health and Hygiene

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

Correction Deadline: 8/30/2018

Corrected on 2/5/2019

.10(4) - Citation corrected in that the diaper changing pads were not torn on this date.

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

Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Comment

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.16(e) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days in advance of the change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. It was determined based on consultants observation and the director's statement that an amendment application was not submitted to Bright from the Start for changes in the use of the building by the license center when a wall was added to separate one licensed space into two separate classrooms.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

An application for amendment and all necessary documentation will be submitted.

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2019

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals**N/A****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)**Met****Comment**

Field trip documentation observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)**Met****Correction Deadline: 8/30/2018****Corrected on 2/5/2019**

.36(4)(c) - Citation corrected in that new fire extinguishers were observed in the two vehicles used to transport children 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: 17****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 9**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 01/03/2019

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/13/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 01/23/2018

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 11/28/2011

Staff # 5

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/30/2015

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 6

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/03/2015

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/13/2017

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 01/08/2018

Staff # 9

Met

Date of Hire: 09/19/2016

Staff # 10

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/14/2009

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 11

Met

Date of Hire: 01/22/2019

Staff # 12

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/09/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 13

Met

Records Reviewed: 17**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 9**

Date of Hire: 04/17/2017

Staff # 14

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/14/2012

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 15

Not Met

Date of Hire: 06/07/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 16

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/02/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 17

Met

Date of Hire: 12/02/2013

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 17**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

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

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.33(6) requires, in the first year of employment and then by calendar year thereafter, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers to attend ten (10) clock hours of training which is task-focused in early childhood education or child development or subjects relating to job assignment and is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on a review of records that nine employees did not complete ten hours of annual training as required for the calendar year 2018.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/7/2019**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.32(4)(a) requires that during the early morning times of arrival and late afternoon times of departure, infants and children younger than three (3) years may be grouped with older children so long as Staff: child ratios and group size are met based on the age of the youngest child in the group. It was determined based on consultants observation that two-year-old children were grouped with three-year-old children in the Second Left classroom during times other than the first and last hours of the day.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will maintain Staff:child ratios based on the youngest child in the group during early morning and late afternoon times when children younger than three years of age may be grouped with older children.

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2019

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

Adequate supervision observed on this date.