



**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:** 8/18/2021    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 11:00 AM    **Departure:** 12:00 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@decals.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.
08/18/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
01/19/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
10/21/2020	Complaint Investigation by Phone	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	PreK	2	18	C	20	C	28	C	Centers
Main	1R	Three Year Olds	1	9	C	15	C	21	C	Music
Main	2 R	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	10	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	2L	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Lunch
Main	3L	Infants	2	7	C	14	C	NA	NA	Feeding, Free Play, Floor Play
Main	3R		0	0	C	16	C	23	C	
Main	4L	One Year Olds	1	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Centers
Main	4R	One Year Olds	1	7	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: 62			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**

A Virtual Visit was conducted on this date. An in person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/18/2021

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](mailto: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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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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 Monitoring Visit:

#### 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.

#### 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**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

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

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

#### 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**

Staff stated proper knowledge.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR) N/A

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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

**Comment**

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR) Not Met

**Finding**

591-1-1-.36(3)(a-b) requires any Center that provides any type of transportation to obtain two (2) hours of state-approved or state-accepted transportation training, biannually, for the Director and for each person responsible for or who participates in the transportation of children. The training shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the transportation rules, a review of approved transportation forms and procedures, and instruction on the usage and completion of the forms and procedures. This training may be counted as part of the annual training requirements for Staff. It was determined based on a review of records that Staff #11 (hired on August 5, 2021) did not obtain transportation training prior to participating in transportation on August 5, 2021, August 6, 2021, and August 9-13, 2021. The staff member obtained transportation training on August 14, 2021.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that the Director, Center Staff, and any person responsible for the transportation of children has completed the required transportation training.

**Correction Deadline: 8/28/2021**

**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 17**

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

Staff # 1 Met

Date of Hire: 07/26/2021 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 2 Met

Date of Hire: 02/13/2012

Staff # 3 Met

Date of Hire: 05/24/2010

Staff # 4 Met

**Records Reviewed: 17**

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

Staff # 5 Date of Hire: 02/08/2021	Met
Staff # 6	Met
Staff # 7 Date of Hire: 11/04/2019	Met
Staff # 8 Date of Hire: 08/13/2019	Met
Staff # 9	Met
Staff # 10 Date of Hire: 11/08/2014	Met
Staff # 11 Date of Hire: 08/05/2021	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 12 Date of Hire: 06/12/2002	Met
Staff # 13 Date of Hire: 01/06/2020	Met
Staff # 14 Date of Hire: 08/09/2002	Met
Staff # 15 Date of Hire: 02/13/2012	Met
Staff # 16 Date of Hire: 01/08/2018	Met
Staff # 17 Date of Hire: 06/07/2021	Met <u>Reminder - Health &amp; Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 2**

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**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)** **Met**

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

## Staffing and Supervision

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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.