



**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: 8/26/2019 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:55 AM **Departure:** 1:35 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: ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation		
08/26/2019	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
02/05/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing
08/30/2018	Monitoring Visit	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	21	C	20	NC	28	C	Outside
Main	1R	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	15	C	21	C	Outside
Main	2 R	One Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Free Play
Main	2L	Three Year Olds	1	5	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	3L	Infants	2	4	C	14	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Nap
Main	3R	Two Year Olds	2	8	C	16	C	NA	NA	Circle Time, Diapering
Main	4L	Two Year Olds	1	4	C	9	C	NA	NA	Art, Centers
Main	4R	One Year Olds	2	7	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	5R	Two Year Olds	1	8	C	8	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 123				
Total # Children this Date: 74			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

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/26/2019

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: 8/26/2019 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:55 AM **Departure:** 1:35 PM

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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

Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

Not Met

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(4) - Please be sure to either cut down all bolts to two threads or place a cap over bolts that face into the playground areas.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019

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 leaning towards the playground on the back left side and also the back right corner. It was further determined that the fence on the left playground measured at only three feet eight inches on the front left side when it is required that all fences measure at least four feet high.

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: 9/3/2019

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.26(6) - Please be sure to replace swing seats or remove swings when the seats begin to crack or break.

Correction Deadline: 9/5/2019

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 there were three active ant beds on the left playground on this date.

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: 8/28/2019

Food Service

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

591-1-1-.15(4) - Please be sure to place children in the high chair when eating.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019

Health and Hygiene

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.20(1) requires Personnel to obtain specific written authorization from the child's physician or parent in order to dispense prescription or non-prescription medications, except for first aid. Such authorization will include when applicable, date; full name of the child; name of the medication; prescription number, if any; dosage; the dates to be given; the time of day to be dispensed; and signature of parent. It was determined based on a review of records that a medication authorization form signed by the parent on March 24, 2019, was lacking the required dates to be given.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to obtain and review parental authorizations to ensure the authorization contains complete information. The designated person(s) will monitor daily.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019

Organization

591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & License

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2019

Corrected on 8/26/2019

.16(e) - Correction of previous citation in that the center did submit an amendment application and were observed operating according to the current license.

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on observation that one infant was observed sleeping in a Fisher Price Bouncer with a mobile attached while another infant was observed asleep on their back on the floor with a pillow on each side of the infant.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment. Staff moved both infants when requested by the consultant.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 4

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/24/2010

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Missing

Staff # 2 Met

Staff # 3

Met

Staff # 4

Met

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined based on a review of records that the center failed to submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site for the director on this date. A one day letter was left on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos to ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will watch the videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1.)(b) requires the Center to ensure that every Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined based on a review of records that the Director did not have a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file on this date. A one day letter was left on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will watch the videos to ensure that the Director has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Director has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will watch the videos to ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

Correction Deadline: 8/26/2019**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training****Met****Correction Deadline: 3/7/2019****Corrected on 8/26/2019**

.33(6) - Correction of previous citation in that the consultant did observe training hours in progress for 2019.

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)

Met

Correction Deadline: 2/5/2019

Corrected on 8/26/2019

.32(4)(a) - Correction of previous citation in that the consultant did not observe any two-year-old children grouped with three-year-old children on this date.

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

Met

Comment

Adequate supervision observed on this date.