



**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:** 8/30/2018    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:35 AM    **Departure:** 1:00 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**

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

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
08/30/2018	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing
01/25/2018	Licensing Study	Good Standing
07/11/2017	Complaint Investigation & 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	Four Year Olds	2	22	C	20	NC	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	1R	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	15	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	2 R	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	2L	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Main	3L		0	0	C	14	C	NA	NA	
Main	3R	Infants and One Year Olds	2	9	C	16	C	23	C	Floor Play
Main	4L	One Year Olds	1	6	C	9	C	12	C	Free Play
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: 65			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**

The consultant discussed the update regarding the criminal records check with the director. All current child care employees must have a comprehensive satisfactory background check on or before October 1, 2018. Please visit to our webpage for criminal record check updates: <http://decal.ga.gov/CCS/CriminalRecordsCheck.aspx>.

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).

	<b>Reminder:</b> All employees of child care programs must be fingerprinted before <b>January 1, 2017</b> . For instructions and to submit records check applications online, please visit <a href="http://www.decalkoala.com">www.decalkoala.com</a> . You are encouraged not to wait and to complete the process as soon as possible.
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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@decals.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decals.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://decals.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)

	
<b>Important New Deadlines:</b>	
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: <a href="https://qualityrated.decals.ga.gov/">https://qualityrated.decals.ga.gov/</a> Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or <a href="mailto:qualityrated@decals.ga.gov">qualityrated@decals.ga.gov</a>	

Jessica Holmes, Program Official

Date

Keshia Hayward, 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**

Per director the 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)**

**Not Met**

**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 consultants observation that a broom and dust pan were accessible in the 1st left and 2nd left classrooms and Windex, foam cleaning gel and Comet were in an unlocked cabinet under the hand washing sink in the 1st right classroom. It was further determined that plastic trash bags and grocery bags were accessible in classrooms throughout the center.

**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: 8/30/2018**

**Recited on 8/30/2018**

**Correction Deadline: 2/8/2018**

**Corrected on 8/30/2018**

**.25(3) - Previous citation corrected in that tiles were replaced and cabinet sink was not broken in classroom 2R.**

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

**Not Met**

**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 consultants observation that one of four tricycles on the Right Front Playground was missing a pedal on this date and two of five bicycles on the riding merry-go-round on the Right Front Playground were missing pedals.

**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: 8/30/2018**

**Recited on 8/30/2018**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on consultants observation that the mulch surfacing has been covered with grass creating a non resilient fall zone beneath the equipment.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency.

**Correction Deadline: 9/6/2018**

**Correction Deadline: 1/25/2018**

**Corrected on 8/30/2018**

**.26(9) - Previous citation corrected in that ant beds were not observed on the playgrounds on this date.**

**Health and Hygiene**

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

**Not Met**

**Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.10(4) requires that if diapers are changed on a diaper changing surface, the surface shall be smooth, nonporous, and equipped with a guard or rails to prevent falls. Between each diaper change, the diaper changing surface shall be cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel. It was determined based on consultants observation that the diaper changing pad was torn exposing foam on the left side in the 2nd right classroom.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure there is a smooth, nonporous changing surface that has a guard or rails for safety in each classroom that houses children wearing diapers. Center Staff will be trained and have adequate supplies to properly clean the diaper changing surface between each diaper change.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2018**

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

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

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

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

**Safety**

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

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

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

591-1-1-.36(4)(c) requires that each vehicle be equipped with a fire extinguisher maintained in working order and kept inaccessible to children. It was determined based on consultants observation that the fire extinguishers were empty on the two vans used to transport children.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that each vehicle has a working fire extinguisher and that the fire extinguisher is kept out of reach of children.

**Correction Deadline: 8/30/2018****Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

591-1-1-.30(1)(a) Cribs and mats were observed to be in good condition on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 9/9/2018****Staff Records****Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1	Met
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

**Records Reviewed: 15****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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: 06/07/2018

Staff # 14 Met

Date of Hire: 07/02/2018

Staff # 15 Met

Date of Hire: 12/02/2013

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 15****591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check(CR) Met****Comment**

Director provided 2 file(s) for employees hired since last visit. Employees files were complete with the required documentation.

**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**

**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.