



**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:** 7/25/2019    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 9:30 AM    **Departure:** 12:45 PM

**CCLC-30865**

**Kuddles & Huggs Learning Academy**

4114 Aslan Road Valdosta, GA 31605 Lowndes County  
 (229) 671-4949 kuddleshuggs@yahoo.com

**Regional Consultant**

Beth Houtz

Phone: (229) 238-2130  
 Fax: (229) 238-2955  
 beth.houtz@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
 Same

**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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 07/25/2019                         | Licensing Study                  | Good Standing |  |
| 06/26/2019                         | Complaint Investigation by Phone | Good Standing |  |
| 01/17/2019                         | Monitoring Visit                 | 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              |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|------|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Bld 2                          | Bld 2-rm E        | Six Year Olds and Over             | 1                               | 11       | C    | 17                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Centers            |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 17 |                   |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101 |          |      |                                 |              |            |              |                    |
| Bld 3                          | Rm F (middle bld) |                                    | 0                               | 0        | C    | 25                              | C            | NA         | NA           |                    |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25 |                   |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101 |          |      |                                 |              |            |              |                    |
| Main                           | Bld 1-Rm A-4's    | Four Year Olds and Five Year Olds  | 1                               | 14       | C    | 22                              | C            | 31         | C            | Outside            |
| Main                           | Bld 1-Rm B-3-4's  | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1                               | 12       | C    | 12                              | C            | 17         | C            | Outside            |
| Main                           | Bld 1-Rm C-infant | Infants                            | 1                               | 3        | C    | 5                               | C            | NA         | NA           | Floor Play         |
| Main                           | Bld 1-Rm D-1-2's  | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds    | 2                               | 10       | C    | 20                              | C            | NA         | NA           | Art, Transitioning |
| Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59 |                   |                                    | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101 |          |      |                                 |              |            |              |                    |
| Total # Children this Date: 50 |                   |                                    | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 101 |          |      | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101 |              |            |              |                    |

| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground 1 | 34                   | C                     |

**Comments**

The purpose of today's visit is a licensing study. This is the first visit of the fiscal year. The center is not currently providing transportation but will start back providing before and after school transportation when school starts.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/25/2019

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.decgal.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@decgal.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRefutations@decgal.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://decgal.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.decgal.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@decgal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decgal.ga.gov)

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Latoya Smith, Program Official

Date

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Beth Houtz, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 7/25/2019    **VisitType:** Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 9:30 AM    **Departure:** 12:45 PM

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Met**

**Comment**

Lesson Plans were observed to be up to date and posted in each classroom.

**Correction Deadline: 7/25/2019**

**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.

### 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 |

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**591-1-1-.08 Children's Records****Met****Comment**

Records were observed to be complete and well organized.

**Correction Deadline: 7/6/2019****Corrected on 7/25/2019**

**.08(2) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The center has 100 percent compliance with the local health department.**

|                 |
|-----------------|
| <b>Facility</b> |
|-----------------|

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

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met****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 the following items were in need of repair and presented a hazard to children in care.

-The half door to the infant room has a hole under the door knob measuring two inches wide and four inches tall.

-On the interior side of the exterior door leading to the playground in the one and two-year-old classroom there was a sharp and rusted edge at the bottom.

-On the exterior side of the door leading into the one and two-year-old classroom the molding on the bottom left side is missing and there is rotten wood exposed.

-The door handle to the girls bathroom in the one and two-year-old classroom is loose and not secured.

**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: 7/25/2019****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(7) - The consultant discussed with the director about ensuring the kitchen door and all interior doors remain locked and inaccessible to children in care.

**Correction Deadline: 7/25/2019**

**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 the following hazards were on the playground and accessible to children in care.

- On the small playground the blue infant swing is split on the bottom of the seat.
- On the older playground two of the four seats on the bounce seat equipment are broken and have sharp edges.
- On the older playground the yellow jeep was rusted and had chipping paint.
- On the older playground the beige and green playhouse had a hole measuring four inches wide and three inches tall on the inside under the back window. Additionally above the door area on the inside there were two screws exposed.

**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: 8/4/2019**

**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 observation that under the red, yellow, and blue play set there was not six inches of resilient surface as required the consultant measured a total of three inches of resilient surface.

**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. The director stated that mulch was just placed in the play area but washed away due to the rain. The director will add more mulch and look for a long term solution to prevent the mulch from washing away in the future.

**Correction Deadline: 8/8/2019**

**Recited on 7/25/2019**

**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 on the older playground there was exposed weed paper and unpainted roots that presented a tripping hazard to children in care. Additionally, on the small playground the wood molding between the siding and brick on the building is pulled off or pulling away presenting a gap. To the right of the water fountain where the molding is pulled away there were two nails exposed.

**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: 7/25/2019**

**Food Service**

**Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines.

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

Kitchen appears clean and well organized.

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**Health and Hygiene**

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**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.10(9) requires Center Staff to not use the area used for diapering for food preparation and to keep the diapering area clear of formulas, food, food utensils and food preparation items. It was determined based on observation that two bottles and two bottle caps were sitting on the hand washing sink used for diapering in the infant classroom.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Center staff will be trained, specified areas will be available for food preparation and placement of food-related items, and the director will monitor.

**Correction Deadline: 7/25/2019**

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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**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

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**Policies and Procedures**

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**591-1-1-.21 Operational Policies & Procedures****Met****Comment**

Program observed complete emergency drills

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**591-1-1-.27 Posted Notices****Met****Comment**

Observed all required posted notices.

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**Safety**

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**591-1-1-.05 Animals****Met****Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Center does not participate in field trips at this time but will take a field trip before the end of the summer. Field trip requirements including paperwork and name tags were discussed with the director.

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**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

A current/completed inspection was observed for all vehicles used in transporting children this date.

**Comment**

Center does not currently provide routine transportation due to summer break. The center will resume before and after school transportation in August when school starts back.

**Comment**

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

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**Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

The correct number of mats, sheets and blankets were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 - The consultant observed one of five crib mattresses to have a tear in the cover preventing the mattresses from being waterproof and washable. The center only has four infants enrolled at this time so the crib was not in use. The director had extra crib mattresses in storage and was able to replace the crib mattress during the visit.

**Correction Deadline: 7/25/2019**

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**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 3****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 02/12/2019

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 05/14/2010

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 06/29/2010

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3**

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

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

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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

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