



**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:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 10:00 AM

CCLC-30865

Kuddles & Huggs Learning Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Kelly Wilson

Phone: (770) 405-7928
Fax: (404) 591-4948
kelly.wilson@decal.ga.gov

Mailing Address
Same

Quality Rated: ★

Compliance Zone Designation			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.
08/18/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/13/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/26/2020	Complaint Closure	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		0	0	C	17	C	NA	NA	
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	PreK	2	7	C	22	C	31	C	Floor Play
Main	Bld 1-Rm B-3-4's	Three Year Olds	2	12	C	12	C	17	C	Art
Main	Bld 1-Rm C-infant	Infants	1	5	C	5	C	NA	NA	Nap,Feeding
Main	Bld 1-Rm D-1-2's	One Year Olds	2	14	C	20	C	NA	NA	Music
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101				
Total # Children this Date: 38			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 101			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground 1	34	C

Comments

An Administrative Review was conducted on August 17, 2021. Staff files, children's files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. A virtual inspection was conducted on August 17, 2021 with the Director. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.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

LaToya Smith, Program Official

Date

Kelly Wilson, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

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The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

Activities and Equipment

591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

Comment

Equipment and furniture observed to be properly secured, as applicable.

591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

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

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The grass on the playground appeared to be well maintained. The consultant discussed daily monitoring of the playground and playground equipment to ensure that hazards are not present while children are present for care.

Health and Hygiene

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.07(5) - The consultant discussed the requirement that Center Staff not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. The consultant discussed with the director a pacifier clip attached to an infant's clothing. The director removed the pacifier clip and instructed the staff not to attach the pacifier clip to the infant's clothing.

Correction Deadline: 8/18/2021

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

Met

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Diapering was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Met

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Handwashing was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Hand washing supplies were observed, and hand washing practices were discussed with the Director on this date.

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

Met

Comment

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Safety

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

Met

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discipline was not directly observed during the virtual walk through. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the Director on this date.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

Comment

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

Comment

Complete documentation of transportation observed.

Comment

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

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: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1

Met

Staff # 2

Met

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met
Staff # 5	Met
Staff # 6	Met
Date of Hire: 10/21/2019	
Staff # 7	Met
Date of Hire: 07/24/2019	
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 06/28/2010	

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 1

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

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

Finding

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member # 1 and #2 did not obtain the required health and safety training within 90 days of employment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

Correction Deadline: 9/17/2021

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that staff member #7 and staff member #8 did not complete the ten (10) clock hours of training in the annual year 2020.

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: 9/17/2021

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.

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

Met

Comment

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