



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: 1/13/2021 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **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

Beth Houtz

Phone: (229) 238-2130
 Fax: (229) 238-2955
 beth.houtz@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.
01/13/2021	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
10/26/2020	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
10/19/2020	Complaint Investigation Follow Up	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	14	C	22	C	31	C	Art	
Main	Bld 1-Rm B-3-4's	Three Year Olds	1	8	C	12	C	17	C	Circle Time	
Main	Bld 1-Rm C-infant	Infants and One Year Olds	1	4	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play	
Main	Bld 1-Rm D-1-2's	Two Year Olds	1	7	C	20	C	NA	NA	Free Play	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					
Total # Children this Date: 33		Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 101			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101						

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground 1	34	C

Comments

A virtual inspection was conducted on January 13, 2021 with the Provider. An in-person visit was not conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Compliance with the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020 was reviewed during the virtual inspection.

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.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@dec.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://dec.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.dec.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@dec.ga.gov

LaToya Smith, Program Official

Date

Beth Houtz, 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

Discussed rotating toys to support the procedures of daily disinfecting.

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**

Correction Deadline: 10/19/2020

Corrected on 1/13/2021

.19(1) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The licensed capacity was observed to be met in each classroom.

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) **Met**

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated in person and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit. The consultant discussed daily monitoring of the playground and playground equipment to ensure that hazards are not present while children are present for care.

The center is adding a privacy fence with a gate at the front of the toddler playground. While the new fence is being built the toddler playground is not in use. All students use the back playground and exit to the playground via the one and two-year-old classroom.

Health and Hygiene

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. Procedures and sanitation regarding proper diapering were discussed with the Director/Provider on this date.

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

Met

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated in person and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit. 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/Provider on this date.

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)

Met

Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule was unable to be evaluated in person and will be reviewed during the next regulatory visit. SIDS and infant sleeping position were discussed with the Director on this date.

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.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Staff # 1 Met
Date of Hire: 11/04/2019

Staff # 2 Met
Date of Hire: 11/23/2020

Staff # 3 Met

Records Reviewed: 8

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0

Date of Hire: 10/16/2020

Staff # 4

Met

Date of Hire: 10/21/2019

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 07/24/2019

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 06/28/2010

Staff # 7

Met

Date of Hire: 06/28/2010

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 04/03/2019

Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3

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

Met

Comment

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided two file(s) for employees hired since last visit.

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

Met

Comment

Additional cleaning and sanitizing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed and observed during a virtual walk through on this date. The program was in compliance with the Executive Order issued on August 15, 2020.

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

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.