



**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:** 2/25/2020    **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit    **Arrival:** 9:00 AM    **Departure:** 11:00 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:**

<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.  <b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. <b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules. <b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
02/25/2020	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
07/25/2019	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
06/26/2019	Complaint Investigation by Phone	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)	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	25	C	NA	NA	Floor Play, Diapering, Feeding
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101							
Main	Bld 1-Rm A-4's	PreK	2	20	C	22	C	31	C	Centers
Main	Bld 1-Rm B-3-4's	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	12	C	17	C	Centers
Main	Bld 1-Rm C-infant		0	0	C	5	C	NA	NA	
Main	Bld 1-Rm D-1-2's	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	17	C	20	C	NA	NA	Clean Up
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101							
Total # Children this Date: 56			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 monitoring visit and a follow up for any previous citations.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 02/25/2020

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.

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#### 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](mailto: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.

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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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.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:** 2/25/2020 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 11:00 AM

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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)**

**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**

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

**Corrected on 2/25/2020**

.25(3) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. All previously cited repairs have been corrected.

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

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 8/4/2019**

**Corrected on 2/25/2020**

.26(6) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The broken equipment has been removed or repaired.

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

Corrected on 2/25/2020

.26(8) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. The center is in the process of replenishing the resilient material and had two loads on hand to put in the playground area. No children were on the playground due to rain the night before.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2019

Corrected on 2/25/2020

.26(9) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. No hazards were observed outside and previous hazards have been repaired or removed.

## Health and Hygiene

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

Met

#### Comment

Proper diapering procedures observed.

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2019

Corrected on 2/25/2020

.10(9) - This citation was observed to be corrected on this date. No food utensils or bottles were observed in the diapering area or sink.

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

Met

#### Comment

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

### 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

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

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

Met

#### 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)

Not Met

#### Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)2 - The consultant observed one of thirteen crib mattresses to have a slit in the vinyl covering. Only eleven infants are enrolled so this mattress is not in use. The consultant discussed with the director about repairing, removing, or replacing the mattress. .

Correction Deadline: 2/25/2020

#### Finding

591-1-1-.30(1)(a)3 requires that each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant. It was determined based on observation that four of thirteen crib mattresses did not have tight fitting sheets as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will ensure that each crib has an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

**Correction Deadline: 2/25/2020**

**Staff Records**

**Records Reviewed: 6**

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

Staff # 1	Met
Date of Hire: 11/04/2019	
Staff # 2	Met
Date of Hire: 11/25/2019	
Staff # 3	Met
Date of Hire: 10/21/2019	
Staff # 4	Met
Staff # 5	Met
Staff # 6	Met

**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.

**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**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.