



**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:** 7/3/2019 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:15 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

**CCLC-46376**

**Kidz Choice Learning Center**

1024 U.S. Highway 80, Suite 204 Pooler, GA 31322 Chatham County  
(912) 988-7601 kidzchoicec@gmail.com

**Mailing Address**

1024 HWY 80, Suite 204  
Pooler, GA 31322

**Regional Consultant**

Kesha McNeal

Phone: (866) 359-1672

Fax: (866) 359-7490

kesha.mcneal@decal.ga.gov

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★

Compliance Zone Designation			<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.
07/03/2019	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
04/10/2019	POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
03/13/2019	Monitoring Visit	Support	

**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	A	Infants and One Year Olds	2	7	C	9	C	NA	NA	Diapering, Floor Play, Nap, Transitioning
Main	B	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	1	12	C	11	NC	NA	NA	Transitioning, Outside, Music
Main	C	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	1	10	C	15	C	NA	NA	Outside, Transitioning, Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Insufficient Toilets/Sinks				
Total # Children this Date: 29			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	A	13	C

**Comments**

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

A one day letter was left on this date as well Affidavit Verifying Completion of Background Check Video Units that the completion due date is July 10, 2019.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 07/03/2019

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.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RuleAndRegulations.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](mailto: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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

---

Ashley Edwards, Program Official

Date

---

Kesha McNeal, Consultant

Date



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

### Findings Report

**Date:** 7/3/2019 **VisitType:** Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit **Arrival:** 9:15 AM **Departure:** 12:15 PM

**CCLC-46376**

**Kidz Choice Learning Center**

1024 U.S. Highway 80, Suite 204 Pooler, GA 31322 Chatham County  
(912) 988-7601 kidzchoicec@gmail.com

**Mailing Address**

1024 HWY 80, Suite 204  
Pooler, GA 31322

**Regional Consultant**

Kesha McNeal

Phone: (866) 359-1672

Fax: (866) 359-7490

kesha.mcneal@dec.al.ga.gov

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)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.19(1) requires a Center to provide 35 square feet of usable space per child, which will determine the Center's License capacity. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that the center cared for twenty-nine children in care and the center is licensed for twenty-five.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will limit the number of children in this space to the licensed capacity.

**Correction Deadline: 7/3/2019**

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that the carpet in the preschool classroom(B), and the carpet in toddler classroom (C) was not sanitary and clean. It was further determined based on the consultant's observation that the carpet in the toddler(C) classroom was fraying and had exposed carpet padding causing a potential tripping hazard.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

**Correction Deadline: 8/2/2019**

---

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(3) requires that the playground be adjacent to the Center or in an area which can be reached by a safe route or method approved by the Department. Except in School-age Centers, the playground shall have shaded areas. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that the playground did not have any shade as required in that the tarp was not in good repair and not attached to the poles.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will identify a safe route or method to reach any non-adjacent playground and submit it for approval. The Center will install structures to provide shade if there is not sufficient natural shade on the playground.

**Correction Deadline: 8/2/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.26(4) requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a (4) four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that the wooden fence on the right back section of the playground across from the brown plastic climbing structure was not in good repair in that there was a four-inch gap located on the middle section of the fence. It was further determined based on the consultant's observation that the wooden fence on the right back section of the playground across from the brown plastic climbing structure had exposed nails accessible to children in care.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will routinely check the fence to determine if it is in good repair and remains at least 4 feet high, and will repair any hazards. The Center will train Staff to identify and report any fence hazards and to keep the fence gates closed when not in use.

**Correction Deadline: 7/3/2019**

**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 the consultant's observation that the little tikes basketball goal was missing the net causing a potential entrapment hazard. It was further determined based on the consultant's observation that the brown plastic little tikes climbing structure was not in good repair in that the front left and back left sections were not attached to the structure causing a potential pinching hazard. It was further determined based on the consultant's observation that two wooden poles under the shaded canopy were not stable and in good repair as required.

**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: 7/13/2019**

---

**Health and Hygiene**

---

---

**591-1-1-.07 Children's Health****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.07(5) - Please ensure that Center Staff do permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. Bibs should only be worn around children necks at specified times.

---

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

**Not Met**

**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 the consultant's observation that the diaper changing surface in room C was porous in that the changing pad had a tear located on the middle section of the changing pad. It was further determined based on the consultant's observation that the diaper changing surface in room A was not cleaned with a disinfectant and dried with a single-use disposable towel as required.

**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: 7/3/2019**

---

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

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.17(7) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that children in classroom A did not wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water after diapering as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

**Correction Deadline: 7/3/2019**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.17(8) requires staff to wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for the day, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after diapering each child, dispensing medication, applying topical medications, handling and preparing food, eating, drinking, preparing bottles, feeding each child, assisting children with eating and drinking, after toileting or assisting children with toileting, using tobacco products, handling garbage and organic waste, touching animals or pets, handling bodily fluids and after contamination by any means. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that a staff member in classroom A was observed not washing their hands with liquid soap and warm running water before diapering as required.. It was further determined based on the consultant's observation that a staff member in classroom A was observed handling bodily fluids and not washing their hands with liquid soap and warm running water as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure liquid soap and warm running water are available for handwashing, train Staff on the handwashing requirements, review the requirements with Staff periodically, and monitor handwashing.

**Correction Deadline: 7/3/2019**

---

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

**Met**

**Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

<b>Organization</b>
---------------------

**Finding**

591-1-1-.16(e) requires the Center to submit an application for an amended License at least 30 days in advance of the change if there is a change in the name of the program or Center, changes in the ages of the children to be served, an increase in the regular hours of operation such that the Center would be providing evening or night-time care in addition to day-time care, changes in the services provided, or additions to or changes in the use of the building by the licensed Center. If an emergency situation arises which makes it impossible to give thirty (30) days' notice, the management of the Center shall notify the Department by telephone and shall submit an application for an amended License as soon as management becomes aware of the change that will be necessitated by the emergency situation. In no case, however, shall a new owner operate the Center without first securing a new License or Permit from the Department. It was determined based on the consultant's observation and review that the center did not submit an application for an amended license for change in capacity space in room A.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

An application for amendment and all necessary documentation will be submitted.

**Correction Deadline: 7/3/2019**

**Policies and Procedures****591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting**

Not Met

**Comment**

Discussed reporting requirements.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.29(4) requires that within twenty-four (24) hours or on the next work day that the Center knows or reasonably should know that there has been an arrest or change in the Comprehensive Records Check Determination of any Director or Employee or the Fingerprint Records Check Determination for any Provisional Employee, the Director or designated person -in-charge shall report or cause to be reported to the Department the incident and the name of any such Director, Employee or Provisional Employee. It was determined based on the consultant's review and observation that the center did not report within twenty-four (24) hours or on the next work day that an employee was arrested on June 27, 2019 for a covered crime.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will report to the Department any arrest or change in a Director or Employee's Comprehensive Records Check Determination or the Fingerprint Records Check Determination of any Provisional Employee. Such report should be made within 24 hours or on the next work day and should include the incident and name of the person involved.

**Correction Deadline: 7/3/2019**

**Safety****591-1-1-.05 Animals**

Not Met

**Finding**

591-1-1-.05(3) requires Center Staff to ensure animals are properly vaccinated and to maintain documentation of the vaccinations at the Center. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that a dog on the premises did not have evidence of vaccinations on file as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The center will obtain all necessary vaccinations for animals on the premises and will file and store the records on site.

**Correction Deadline: 8/2/2019**

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

Met

**Comment**

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

**Comment**

Center does not provide routine transportation.

<b>Sleeping &amp; Resting Equipment</b>
---

## 591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Not Met

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.30(2)(c) requires that infants shall not sleep in equipment other than safety-approved cribs, such as, but not limited to, a car safety seat, bouncy seat, highchair, or swing. Infants who arrive at the Center asleep or fall asleep in such equipment, on the floor or elsewhere, shall be transferred to a safety-approved crib. It was determined based on the consultant's observation that an infant in classroom A was observed asleep in a bouncy seat.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will only place infants in safe cribs to sleep and will transfer them to a safe crib when the infants are asleep in other equipment.

**Correction Deadline: 7/3/2019**

<b>Staff Records</b>
----------------------

<b>Records Reviewed: 8</b>	<b>Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1</b>
----------------------------	--

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 07/01/2019

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2019

Staff # 3

Met

Date of Hire: 06/11/2018

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/13/2019

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.09-Criminal Records Check Dissatisfied

Staff # 5

Met

Date of Hire: 03/08/2016

Staff # 6

Met

Date of Hire: 04/21/2016

Staff # 7

Met

Date of Hire: 04/18/2018

Staff # 8

Met

Date of Hire: 05/15/2019



**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

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

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(l)1. requires the Center to immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a Director, Employee or Provisional Employee if the Center knows or reasonably should know that the individual has been arrested or charged for any covered Crime. It was determined based on the consultant's review that the center did not immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for a employee who was arrested for a covered crime on June 27,2019.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will review all criminal record check rule requirements and immediately require a new Comprehensive Records Check Determination for Directors, Employees or Provisional Employees when the Center knows or should know that the individual has been arrested or charged for any covered Crime. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will review and discuss all criminal record check rules to ensure CRC rules are maintained. A one day letter was left on site.

**Correction Deadline: 7/3/2019**

---

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed that all lead staff must enroll in an approved education program within 6 months of hire and complete degree within 18 months.

<b>Staffing and Supervision</b>
---------------------------------

---

**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR)****Met****Comment**

Discussed combining children of mixed ages.

---

**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR)****Met****Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.

**Comment**

Discussed proper supervision: responding promptly, bathrooms and playgrounds.