



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: 8/30/2024 VisitType: LS POI Follow Up

Arrival: 12:30 PM Departure: 4:30 PM

CCLC-30865

Kuddles & Huggs Learning Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Rena Keene

Phone: (706) 855-3458

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rena.keene@dec.al.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.
08/30/2024	LS POI Follow Up	Good Standing	
07/18/2024	Incident Investigation Closure	Good Standing	
06/11/2024	Incident 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	Three Year Olds and Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over	2	17	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning, Nap, Outside
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 17			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 115							
Bld 3	Rm F (middle bld)	One Year Olds	3	12	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap, Snack, Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 115							
Main	Bld 1-Rm A-4's	Four Year Olds and GA PreK	1	15	C	22	C	31	C	Nap, Snack, Transitioning
Main	Bld 1-Rm B-3-4's	Three Year Olds	3	12	C	12	C	17	C	Nap, Transitioning
Main	Bld 1-Rm C-infant	Infants	1	5	C	5	C	NA	NA	Clean Up, Diapering, Floor Play, Feeding
Main	Bld 1-Rm D-1-2's	Two Year Olds	1	12	NC	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 115							
Total # Children this Date: 73			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 101			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 115				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Bld 3	One Year Old Playground	4	C
Main	Playground 1	37	C

Comments

The purpose of today's visit was to conduct a Licensing Study and follow up on previously cited rule violations.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date 08/30/2024

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/Regulations.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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA www.decalkoala.com with the userid for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

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 Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov for more information. Free technical assistance is available!



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(Findings Report)

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The following information is associated with a LS POI Follow Up:

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.

Children's Records

Records Reviewed: 5

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 1

Child # 1

Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.08(3)-Address of Release Person Missing

591-1-1.08 Children's Records

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

591-1-1.08(1) requires the Center Staff to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for one year after that child is no longer enrolled. In order for the file to be complete, the file shall contain the following: child's name, birth date, sex, address, living arrangement, name of school if applicable; names of both Parents, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers; name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached; name and telephone number of the child's primary source of health care; and a statement regarding known allergies, physical problems, mental health disorders, intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities which limit the child's participation in the program. Please ensure that all required information, including addresses, is obtained for persons to whom each child can be released.

Correction Deadline: 8/30/2024

Evening Care

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

No evening care hours provided

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**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)**Technical Assistance****Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Technical Assistance

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. Please ensure that wash out holes are filled in to prevent tripping hazards on the playground.

Correction Deadline: 9/9/2024

Food Service**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Comment**

Center menu meets USDA guidelines. Snack served during visit included apples and crackers.

Comment

CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements effective October 1, 2017 will be implemented October 1, 2018: 3

Components for breakfast: Grains, Vegetables, Fruits or both, Milk

5 Components for lunch – Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, Fruits, Vegetable, and Milk OR Grains, Meat/Meat alternates, 2 different types of vegetables, and Milk

2 of 5 Components for snack

Provided Updated CACFP Infant Meal pattern and Child/Adult Meal pattern flyers.

The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP can be located on DECAL and USDA's website:

DECAL

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Handbook.aspx>

USDA

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-handbooks>

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

Please ensure that all food items are stored in airtight containers.

Health and Hygiene**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

Policies and Procedures

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

Program observed complete emergency drills

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

Observed all required posted notices.

Safety

591-1-1-.05 Animals	Met
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Comment

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)	Met
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Comment

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)	Not Met
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Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.36(4)(b) requires that the interior of a transportation vehicle be clean, in safe repair and free of hazardous items, objects and/or other non-essential items which could cause injury. Please ensure that caution markers are secured by using duct tape to fasten the broken enclosure or secure by other means.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(b) requires that an emergency medical information record be maintained in the vehicle for each child being transported. The emergency medical information record for each child shall include a listing of the child's full name, date of birth, allergies, special medical needs and conditions, current prescribed medications that the child is required to take on a daily basis for a chronic condition, the name and telephone number of the child's doctor, the local medical facility that the Center uses in the area where the Center is located and the telephone numbers where the Parents can be reached. It was determined based on a review of transportation records for the current week and staff statements that one child was transported from Pine Grove Elementary School to the center from Monday, August 26, 2024, through Friday, August 30, 2024, each afternoon, and there was no emergency medical information on the vehicle during the times the child was transported,

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will obtain a complete emergency medical information record for each child that is transported and maintain a copy on the vehicle.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2024

Finding

591-1-1-.36(7)(c)2. requires that the driver or other designated person shall immediately document in writing, with a check or other mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist each time a child enters and exits the vehicle. The driver or other designated staff person shall document in writing with a different mark/symbol to account for each child listed on the passenger transportation checklist who was not present on the vehicle for any reason. An explanation shall be documented in writing whenever a child is transported to a field trip site but is not present on the return trip to the Center. It was determined based on a review of transportation records for the current week and staff statements that two children listed on the transportation log for Sallas Mahone Elementary School were checked on and off the vehicle, but were not transported on August 26, 2024.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The driver/other designated person will immediately document in writing with a check/mark/symbol each time a child gets on and off the vehicle. Staff will also correctly document when children listed on the transportation checklist are not present or transported with an explanation.

Correction Deadline: 8/31/2024

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

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Comment

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

Comment

Director provided three (3) files for employees hired since last visit.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR**Met****Comment**

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

591-1-1-.33 Staff Training**Met****Comment**

Documentation observed of required staff training.

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.

Comment

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Staffing and Supervision

Finding

591-1-1-.32(1) requires the Center to maintain the required Staff:child ratios as follows: under 1 year or under 18 months if not walking = 1:6; 1 year and walking = 1:8; 2 years = 1:10; 3 years = 1:15; 4 years = 1:18; 5 years = 1:20; and 6 years and older = 1:25. A Center must establish groupings of children for care with maximum group sizes as follows: under 1 year = 12; under 18 months/not walking = 12; 1 year and walking = 16; 2 years = 20; 3 years = 30; 4 years = 36; 5 years = 40; and 6 years and older = 50. It was determined based on consultant's observation, the required staff to child ratio was not provided in the two-year-old classroom when one employee was present with twelve children who were one year of age.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will hire additional Staff or reschedule current Staff to meet required Staff:child ratios and will organize children into groups that meet requirements.

Correction Deadline: 8/30/2024

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

Correction Deadline: 7/25/2024

Corrected on 8/30/2024

.32(7) - Supervision was observed to be adequate and staff have been made aware of watchful oversight requirements related to supervision.