



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: 2/21/2024 VisitType: Licensing Study

Arrival: 7:10 AM

Departure: 10:00 AM

CCLC-16643

Kidz Fortress Childcare Learning Center

2421 Mike Padgett Highway, Suite A Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond  
County  
(706) 798-1072 kidzfortress@comcast.net

Regional Consultant

Ashley Richards

Phone: (229) 584-1482

Fax:

ashley.richards@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. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02/21/2024                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12/21/2023                  | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 01/18/2023                  | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                             |                  |               | <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.                                                                                                                |

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     | 1L   |                                                       | 0     | 0        | C    | 20         | C            | 28         | C            |               |
| Main     | 1R   | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds                     | 1     | 5        | C    | 15         | C            | 21         | C            | Transitioning |
| Main     | 2 R  |                                                       | 0     | 0        | C    | 10         | C            | NA         | NA           |               |
| Main     | 2L   |                                                       | 0     | 0        | C    | 9          | C            | NA         | NA           |               |
| Main     | 3L   |                                                       | 0     | 0        | C    | 14         | C            | 19         | C            |               |
| Main     | 3R   | Five Year Olds and Six Year Olds and Over and GA PreK | 2     | 9        | NC   | 16         | C            | 23         | C            | Transitioning |
| Main     | 4L   |                                                       | 0     | 0        | C    | 9          | C            | NA         | NA           |               |
| Main     | 4R   |                                                       | 0     | 0        | C    | 8          | C            | NA         | NA           |               |
| Main     | 5R   |                                                       | 0     | 0        | C    | 8          | C            | NA         | NA           |               |

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 135

Total # Children this Date: 14

Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 109

Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 135

| Building | Playground       | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Left             | 31                   | C                     |
| Main     | Right Back       | 61                   | C                     |
| Main     | Right Front Yard | 41                   | C                     |

### Comments

The purpose of this visit was to conduct a Licensing Study.

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.al.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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://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.

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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 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](mailto:qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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Jessica Holmes, Program Official

Date

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Ashley Richards, Regional 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

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

Comment

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

Technical Assistance

591-1-1-.12(2) - Please ensure that foam blocks that have tears or puncture marks are removed from the classrooms as needed.

Correction Deadline: 2/21/2024

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

N/A

Comment

Center does not provide swimming activities.

Evening Care

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

N/A

Comment

No evening care hours provided

Facility

591-1-1-.06 Bathrooms

Met

Comment

Bathrooms observed to be clean and well maintained.

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|                                         |            |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

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|                                                          |                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)</b> | <b>Technical Assistance</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

**Comment**

No hazards observed accessible to children on this date.

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.25(3) - Please ensure that the light bulb fixtures are replaced and that the exhaust vents are free from dust within the children's bathrooms located on the first hallway.

**Correction Deadline: 2/21/2024**

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|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

**Correction Deadline: 1/31/2024**

**Corrected on 2/21/2024**

.26(4) - Correction of previous citation in that the gap that measured four and half inches long by four and a half inches wide that was located on the top back left section of the chain link fencing on the Right Back Playground was repaired and in good condition on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 1/31/2024**

**Corrected on 2/21/2024**

.26(9) - Correction of previous citation in that playground hazards were repaired or removed and in good condition on this date.

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Health and Hygiene</b> |
|---------------------------|

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|                                                        |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas &amp; Practices(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Proper hand washing observed throughout the center.

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Documentation for medication dispensing observed complete.

|               |
|---------------|
| <b>Safety</b> |
|---------------|

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|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.05 Animals</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

Center does not keep animals on premises.

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|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|

**Comment**

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

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**591-1-1-.13 Field Trips(CR)** **N/A**

**Comment**

Center does not participate in field trips at this time.

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**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**

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

**Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

**Comment**

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**

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

**Comment**

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Staffing and Supervision**

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

**Technical Assistance**

591-1-1-.32(4) - Please ensure that children under three years old are housed in separate physical areas from older children except at specified times and circumstances such as the first and/or last hour of the day.

**Correction Deadline: 2/21/2024**

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

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.