



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

Cover Sheet

Date: 7/26/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study **Arrival:** 8:20 AM **Departure:** 9:20 AM

CCLC-30865

Kuddles & Huggs Learning Academy

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

Regional Consultant

Kelly Wilson
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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.
07/26/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
03/30/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/18/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	

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.

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	1	13	C	17	C	NA	NA	Transitioning
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 17					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					
Bld 3	Rm F (middle bld)	Infants	2	11	C	25	C	NA	NA	Free Play
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					
Main	Bld 1-Rm A-4's	Six Year Olds and Over	1	14	C	22	C	31	C	Free Play
Main	Bld 1-Rm B-3-4's	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	12	C	17	C	Art
Main	Bld 1-Rm C-infant	Infants	1	5	C	5	C	NA	NA	Floor Play
Main	Bld 1-Rm D-1-2's	One Year Olds	2	8	C	20	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					
Total # Children this Date: 63			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 101			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground 1	34	C

Comments

An in-person walk through of the facility was conducted on July 26, 2022. A letter requesting documents be uploaded by August 2, 2022, for the annual review was left with the director and a signature obtained after the walk through. Background checks for all staff were reviewed during the walk-through visit. The annual review was completed on August 11, 2022, and a copy of the was emailed to the provider on this day.

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.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



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.state.ga.us for more information. Free technical assistance is available!

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)

LaToya Smith, Program Official

Date

Kelly Wilson, Consultant

Date



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Findings Report

Date: 7/26/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

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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

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

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)

Not Met

Finding

591-1-1-.25(7) requires that doors to rooms not approved for child care, other than the kitchen doors, be latched or locked so children cannot wander into those areas. Except in School-age Centers, interior Center door locks shall permit Personnel to open the locked room from outside of the room in an emergency. It was determined based on observation that in classroom D of the main building the storage closet was not locked as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will routinely check that doors to unapproved rooms remain latched or locked and that Staff can open the locked rooms in an emergency.

Correction Deadline: 7/26/2022

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

The playground had green and beige playhouse with cracks in the side and the mulch border wall around the play equipment had cracks in plastic. The consultant discussed with the director the requirement that playground equipment shall be regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of hazards that could pose significant safety hazard to the children. The director stated that plans for remodeling the playground had begun with the director's purchase of the center.

Correction Deadline: 8/5/2022

Food Service

591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.15(3) requires baby bottles and formula to be labeled with the individual child's name; supplied by the Parent daily in bottles; and refrigerated at a temperature of forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or less. Only the current day's formula or breast milk shall be served. If formula must be provided by the Center, only commercially prepared, ready-to-feed formula shall be used. Refrigerated or frozen breast milk shall only be heated or thawed under warm running water or in a container of warm water. It was determined based on observation that in classroom C of the main building there were five of eleven bottles that were not labeled with the individual child's name as required.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will train Staff to follow the required procedures, ensure that parents are fully informed, and will review and monitor regularly.

Correction Deadline: 7/26/2022**Recited on 7/26/2022**

Health and Hygiene

591-1-1-.07 Children's Health**Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.07(5) requires Center Staff to not permit children to wear around their necks or attach to their clothing pacifiers or other hazardous items. It was determined based on observation that a two-year-old child in classroom D and an infant in classroom F were wearing a necklace of beads around their neck that posed a possible strangulation or choking hazard.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will instruct Staff regarding this safety requirement.

Correction Deadline: 7/26/2022

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

Proper diapering procedures observed.

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)**Met****Comment**

Discussed SIDS and infant sleeping position.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 14**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 7**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 08/16/2022

Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 2

Not Met

Date of Hire: 07/28/2020

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training,.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 3

Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/10/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training

Staff # 4

Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/04/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 5

Met

Staff # 6

Met

Staff # 7

Not Met

Date of Hire: 11/03/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing

Staff # 8

Met

Records Reviewed: 14**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 7**

Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 06/09/2022	<u>Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired</u>
Staff # 10	Met
Date of Hire: 07/24/2019	
Staff # 11	Met
Date of Hire: 06/28/2010	
Staff # 12	Not Met
Date of Hire: 01/27/2022	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.36(3)(a-b)-2 hrs. Transportation Training missing	
Staff # 13	Not Met
Date of Hire: 06/03/2021	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing,.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 14	Not Met
Date of Hire: 05/17/2022	
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.31(2)(b)2.-Staff Qualifications-Education Missing	

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

591-1-1-.14 First Aid & CPR Not Met**Finding**

591-1-1-.14(1) requires the Center Director and, at any given time, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff to successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid. The first aid training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. The Center shall maintain current evidence of the successful completion of such training which shall be available to the Department for inspection. It was determined based on a review of records that the center director and at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver Staff did not successfully complete a biennial training program in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in first aid.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center Director and at least 50% of the caregiver Staff will complete the needed training. The Director will send written verification to the consultant upon completion and will develop a plan to ensure that at least 50% of the caregiver Staff have completed this training at any given time and that evidence of successful completion of the training is on file available for inspection.

Correction Deadline: 8/25/2022

Finding

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined based on a review of records that staff members #1, 2, and 12 did not complete the ten (10) clock hours of training in the annual year 2021.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2023

Recited on 7/26/2022

Finding

591-1-1-.31(2)(a) requires the Center to ensure there is a designated teacher/lead caregiver for each group of children. It was determined based on a review of records that the center did not have lead teachers in classroom C, D and F with the required credentials.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Center will designate a qualified lead staff for this group.

Correction Deadline: 7/26/2022

Staffing and Supervision

Comment

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.

Comment

Staff observed to provide direct supervision and be attentive to children's needs.