



**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:** 3/30/2022 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 11:30 AM

**Departure:** 1:00 PM

**CCLC-30865**

**Kuddles & Huggs Learning Academy**

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

**Regional Consultant**

Kelly Wilson

Phone: (770) 405-7928

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kelly.wilson@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.
03/30/2022	Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	
08/18/2021	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
01/13/2021	Monitoring Visit	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
Bld 2	Bld 2-rm E	Three Year Olds	1	11	C	17	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 17					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					
Bld 3	Rm F (middle bld)	One Year Olds	3	18	C	25	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 25					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					
Main	Bld 1-Rm A-4's	GA PreK	2	16	C	22	C	31	C	Transitioning
Main	Bld 1-Rm B-3-4's	Three Year Olds	1	12	C	12	C	17	C	Nap
Main	Bld 1-Rm C-infant	Infants	1	3	C	5	C	NA	NA	Free Play,Nap
Main	Bld 1-Rm D-1-2's	Two Year Olds	2	19	C	20	C	NA	NA	Nap
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 59					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 101					
Total # Children this Date: 79			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 March 30, 2022. A letter requesting documents be uploaded by April 6, 2022, for the annual review was left with the director after the walk through. The center does provide transportation. Background checks for all staff were reviewed during the walk through visit. The annual review was completed on April 25, 2022, and a copy of the report 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](mailto: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](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.'

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

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The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

### Activities and Equipment

#### 591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Technical Assistance

##### Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed the requirement that equipment and furniture be placed so as to permit the children's freedom of movement and to minimize danger of accident and collision. Chairs stacked on a table in room D of the main building were placed back on the floor by the staff.

**Correction Deadline: 3/30/2022**

##### Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed the requirement that toys for children be free of sharp pieces, edges or points. The sink buckets in the play kitchens of Class Room D in the main building and in Class Room E of building 2 were cracked. The director stated they would be replaced.

**Correction Deadline: 3/30/2022**

#### 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)

Technical Assistance

##### Technical Assistance

The consultant discussed the requirement that protective caps on all unused electrical outlets within children's reach and requires that electrical outlets in use be made inaccessible to children. The director replaced the outlet covers during the visit.

**Correction Deadline: 3/30/2022**

**Comment**

Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

**Technical Assistance**

The consultant discussed the requirement that 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. The consultant discussed with the director about removing the cracked playhouse on Playground 1 and the cracked piece of play equipment on Playground 2.

**Correction Deadline: 4/9/2022**

**Technical Assistance**

The consultant discussed the requirement that the playground to be kept clean, free from litter and free of hazards, such as but not limited to rocks, exposed tree roots and exposed sharp edges of concrete. Tree roots were exposed in various spots on the playground. The director stated they would spray the tree roots with brightly colored paint to prevent tripping hazards.

**Correction Deadline: 3/30/2022**

<b>Food Service</b>
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**Technical Assistance**

There was a one-year-old child in the classroom of building 3 that was napping with a sippy cup of juice. The consultant discussed the requirement that Center Personnel ensure that children shall always be seated when eating and drinking. Staff should be aware of complications, such as choking, associated with an infant's drinking in a reclining position and with falling asleep with a bottle of breast milk, formula, milk, juice, etc. in the mouth.

**Correction Deadline: 3/30/2022**

**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 the temperatures in the refrigerator of Class Room C of Building 1 was 52 degrees Fahrenheit and in the refrigerator the Classroom of building 3 was 57 degrees Fahrenheit and not the required temperature of 40 degrees or less.

**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: 3/30/2022**

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
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**Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**Comment**

Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

**Safety**

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

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

**591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)****Technical Assistance****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.

**Technical Assistance**

The consultant observed a four inch tear on the seat part of the last bench seat in the van. The consultant discussed with the director about using duct tape to repair the seat until a permanent repair could be made.

**Correction Deadline: 3/31/2022****Sleeping & Resting Equipment**

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

Pleasant naptime environment observed.

**Staff Records**

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**Records Reviewed: 12****Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

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Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Met
Staff # 3	Met
Staff # 4	Met
Staff # 5	Met
Staff # 6	Met
Staff # 7	Met
Staff # 8	Met
Date of Hire: 10/21/2019	
Staff # 9	Met
Date of Hire: 07/24/2019	

**Records Reviewed: 12**

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

Staff # 10 Met  
Date of Hire: 06/28/2010

Staff # 11 Met  
Date of Hire: 01/27/2022 Reminder - Health & Safety training is required within 90 calendar days of hired

Staff # 12 Met

**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-.33 Staff Training Defer**

**Correction Deadline: 7/13/2022**

**Corrected on 3/30/2022**

**.33(3) - This citation was observed to be corrected. All staff had received their Health and Safety training with in 90 days of hire as required.**

**Defer**

591-1-1-.33(5)- This citation is deferred until the annual training for the calendar year 2021 can be reviewed at the next annual visit.

**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: 9/17/2021**

**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**  
Adequate supervision observed on this date.