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: 7/16/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring **Arrival:** 11:25AM **Departure:** 2:05PM

EX-45565 EXMT-11236 EX-7 - Day camp
Cowart Family Ashford Dunwoody YMCA

3692 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta GA 30319
DeKalb County

Mailing Address

Same

Exemption Unit Consultant

Melissa Malone

Phone: (678) 491-9630
Fax:
melissa.malone@decal.ga.gov

Joint with:

Compliance Zone Designation		
7/16/2026	EX-CAPS-Monitoring	Prevention

Prevention Action Category	IntermediateAction Category	Dismissal Action Category
Prevention Level 1 (P1)	**Intermediate Level 1 (I1)**	**Dismissal (D)**
Technical Assistance	Corrective Action Plan	Dismissal
	Office Conference	Disqualification
Prevention Level 2 (P2)	**Intermediate Level 2 (I2)**	
Citation	Fine (Level1 or 2)	
Plan of Improvement		
Prevention Level 3 (P3)	**Intermediate Level 3 (I3)**	

Room Description	Age Groups	Staff Count	Children Count	State Ratio Met	Notes
Activity/Community Room	, Fives, Six and older	3	22	Y	
Gym	, Six and older	7	69	Y	
Playground		0	0	Y	
Pool		0	0	Y	
Studio 1	, Fives, Six and older	4	49	Y	
Teens Center	, Six and older	6	41	Y	

Group Sizes Met? Y Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 0 #Staff Count: 20 #Children Count: 181

Comments:

Please refer to the Exemption page of the website, https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/Exemptions.aspx for information regarding 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

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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 user id 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 standard number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the standard 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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(Summary Report)

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The following information is associated with a EX-CAPS-Monitoring:

Activities and Equipment

EX-HS-.A Activities **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.A - Activities observed to be appropriate and safe for children in care.

EX-HS-.F Equipment & Toys **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.F - A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the Program.

EX-HS-.Q Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CS) **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.Q - Lifeguard is certified and present.

Children's Records

EX-HS-.C Children's Records **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.C - Observed children's files as required.

Exemptions

EX-HS-.X Exemption Requirements **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.X - Observed compliance with the local zoning authorities, fire safety agencies and local building authorities on this date.

Facility

EX-HS-.B Bathrooms **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.B - Program observed to have adequate toilets, sinks and supplies available.

EX-HS-.L Physical Plant(CS) **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.L - Observed approval from the Department, local zoning authorities, fire safety agencies and local building authorities on this date.

EX-HS-.M Playgrounds(CS) **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.M - Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

Health and Hygiene

EX-HS-.U Diapering Areas & Practices(CS) **N/A**

Comment
EX-HS-.U - No diapered children are enrolled.

EX-HS-.H Hygiene **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.H - Hand washing was not observed during the visit but proper hand washing rules were discussed.

EX-HS-.I Medications(CS) **N/A**

Comment
EX-HS-.I - Medication is not dispensed.

Policies and Procedures

EX-HS-.J Operational Policies & Procedures **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.J - Observed the Program's written emergency plan on this date.

EX-HS-.T Required Reporting **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.T - There were no incidents or injuries that required reporting.

Safety

EX-HS-.E Discipline(CS) **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.E - Staff were observed to maintain an age appropriate learning environment on this date.

EX-HS-.S Field Trips **N/A**

Comment
EX-HS-.S - No field trips are conducted at the program.

EX-HS-.R Transportation(CS) **N/A**

Comment
EX-HS-.R - No transportation provided.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

EX-HS-.V Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CS) **N/A**

Comment
EX-HS-.V - No infants enrolled in the program.

Staff Records

EX-HS-.D Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CS) **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.D - Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

EX-HS-.G First Aid & CPR(CS) **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.G - Observed evidence of staff training in CPR and first aid on this date.

EX-HS-.K Personnel Records **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.K - Observed personal records maintained.

EX-HS-.N Staff Requirements **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.N - Observed a director or person responsible for overall supervision of the program.

EX-HS-.P Staff Training **Not Met**

Finding
EX-HS-.P(3)(a-k) requires each staff member with direct care responsibilities shall complete health and safety training and Health and Safety Orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours: (a) prevention and control of infectious diseases; (b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; (c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; (d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; (e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; (f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment;
(g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility);
(h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants;
(i) precautions in transporting children (if applicable); (j)recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and (k)child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on a review of records that staff members #5 and #8 did not complete Health and Safety training within the first 90 days of hire as required. Staff members #5 and #8 were hired in June 2025.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track Health and Safety orientation training for all employees based on their hire dates. all staff files will be reviewed at the follow up visit.

Correction Deadline: 7/29/2026

Finding
EX-HS-.P(4)(a-b) requires staff complete annual training (a) Every calendar year after the first year of employment, the Director, Provisional Employees and Employees shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source.
(b) The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include the following:
1. At least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices;
2. At least two (2) hours in on-going child development and health and safety related topics, which could include, but not be limited to:
(i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs);
(ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants);
(iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response);
(iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment).
3. No more than two (2) of the required ten (10) hours in business-related topics (e.g., parental communication, recordkeeping, management, business planning). It was determined based on observation that staff members numbers #5, #8 and #18 did not complete annual training as required. Staff member #5 was hired 06/05/25, staff member #8 was hired 06/02/25 and staff member #18 was hired 11/20/23.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed. All staff files will be reviewed at the follow up visit.

Correction Deadline: 7/23/2026

Staffing and Supervision

EX-HS-.O Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision(CS) **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.O - Program observed to maintain appropriate staff: child ratios.