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: 3/5/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring **Arrival:** 1:15PM **Departure:** 4:10PM

EX-43897 EXMT-6404 EX-1 - Government
DeKalb County Schools ASEDP - Marbut Theme

5776 Marbut Road, Lithonia GA 30058 DeKalb County

Mailing Address

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Exemption Unit Consultant

Keia Cole

Phone: (678) 717-5146
Fax: (770) 342-7801
keia.cole@decal.ga.gov

Joint with:

Compliance Zone Designation		
3/5/2026	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
Cafeteria	PreK, Fives, Six and older	4	44	Y	
Courtyard		0	0	Y	
Courtyard 2		0	0	Y	
First & Second Grades		0	0	Y	
Fourth & Fifth Grades		0	0	Y	
Gym		0	0	Y	
Media Center		0	0	Y	
Playground		0	0	Y	
PreK - Kindergarten		0	0	Y	
Room 14		0	0	Y	
Room 2		0	0	Y	
Room 35		0	0	Y	
Room 38		0	0	Y	
Room 7		0	0	Y	
Third & Fourth Grades		0	0	Y	

Group Sizes Met? Y Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 0 #Staff Count: 4 #Children Count: 44

Comments:
The child care program is in compliance with the approved exemption category.

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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Joint with:

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

EX-HS-.Q Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CS) **N/A**

Comment
EX-HS-.Q - The Program does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

EX-HS-.C Children's Records **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance
EX-HS-.C(2) - requires Program Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations for each child enrolled in the Program on a form approved by the Department, and to allow no child to continue enrollment in the Program for more than thirty (30) days without such evidence. It was observed that the Program did not have access to children’s immunization records during the visit on this date. It was recommended that all mandatory documents be accessible for review by the Department during inspections. The Program was reminded to obtain immunization records for all Childcare and Parent Service scholars.

Comment
EX-HS-.C(4) - Attendance and transportation records maintained

Exemptions

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

Comment
EX-HS-.X - Program operating as approved.

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) **Not Met**

Finding
EX-HS-.L(2) requires the Program to be in compliance with applicable laws and regulations issued by the state fire marshal, the proper local fire marshal or state inspector, including a certificate of occupancy if required prior to receiving any children for care. It was determined based on a review of records that the Program did not have evidence of a recent Fire Marshal inspection available for review by the Department during the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will obtain appropriate approvals, and ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations by the state fire marshal, proper local fire marshal or state inspector, including a certificate of occupancy, are maintained and met. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/27/2026

EX-HS-.M Playgrounds(CS) **Not Met**

Technical Assistance
EX-HS-.M(1) - requires that playgrounds be protected from traffic or other hazards by a 4 four foot high fence or other barrier approved by this Department. Fencing material shall not present a hazard to children and shall be maintained so as to prevent children from leaving the playground area by any means other than through an approved access route. Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area. If the outdoor play space has no fence or barrier, the program official must submit a plan to ensure children are protected from vehicular traffic, water hazards, and any other potential hazards while participating in outdoor play. It was discussed with the Director on this date to develop and enforce a supervision safety plan for the playground due to limited fencing.

Finding
EX-HS-.M(3) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Program to ensure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the playground had several tripping hazards due to the underlay material not being covered on both playground areas.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will add additional resilient surfacing to the fall zones where needed and check daily, adding resilient surfacing as needed to maintain adequate resiliency. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/27/2026

Finding
EX-HS-.M(4) requires 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 or equipment. It was determined based on observation that the concrete before the small playground area had ant beds.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will remove any litter and repair or remove hazards from the playground. The playground will routinely be monitored. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/27/2026

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 - Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

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

Policies and Procedures

EX-HS-.J Operational Policies & Procedures **Not Met**

Technical Assistance
EX-HS-.J(2) - requires programs to conduct drills for fire, tornado, severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the Program; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The program shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was discussed with the Program director on this date to ensure all drills are conducted during and maintained for the after-school program.

Finding
EX-HS-.J1(a-i) requires the Program to establish and implement written policies and procedures that describe the Program's operations as follows: (a) The exclusion of children with contagious illness; (b) Notification of parents in the event their child becomes ill while at the facility; (c) The notification of all parents of enrolled children when a reportable contagious illness is present in the facility; (d) The prevention of and response to food and allergic reactions; (e) Emergency preparedness and response. A written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to severe weather, loss of electrical power or water and death, serious injury or loss of a child, a threatening event, or natural disaster which may occur at the program. The program will have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, and continuity of operations. The plan must apply to all children in care and will include specific accommodations for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions. Such plan shall include assurance that no Personnel will impede in any way the delivery of emergency care or services to a child by licensed or certified emergency health care professionals; (f) The handling and appropriate disposal of bodily fluids and storage of hazardous materials (soiled clothing and bedding); (g) Recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; (h) A description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the program, to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care; (i) A description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children. It was determined based on a review of records on this date that the Program did not have all sections a-i in their policies and procedures.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will revise their policies and procedures to include all required information and update as needed. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/27/2026

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

Comment
EX-HS-.T - The program has not had any incidents that required reporting.

Safety

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

Comment
EX-HS-.E - Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed. Please have staff be mindful of tone of voice when redirecting.

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 are enrolled. No safe sleep policies are necessary.

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 6 **Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 6**

Staff # 1 Not Met

Date of Hire: 02/18/2006

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/08/2007

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2018

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/08/2014

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/22/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/05/2016

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

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) Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

EX-HS-.G(2)(a-d) - requires (a) when any child is present on the premises, at least fifty percent (50%) of the caregiver staff present shall be trained in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. (b) There must always be one staff person present in each classroom where children are present that has current and valid pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid training. (c) During any field trip or transportation of children, there must always be a staff member present who has current evidence of the successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid. (d) the Program Director must have current evidence of successful completion of pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and pediatric first aid at all times. It was discussed with the Director on this date that card verification of training completion is required. Documentation will be reviewed during the follow-up visit.

EX-HS-.K Personnel Records **Technical Assistance**

Technical Assistance

EX-HS-.K(1)(a-c) - requires the Program to maintain a personnel file on all Staff for the duration of the term of employment plus one calendar year, and shall contain the following: (a) identifying information to include: name, date of birth, current address and current telephone number; (b)evidence of all training required by these standards which shall include: title of training, date of training, trainer's signature, location of training and number of clock hours obtained; (c) verification of a satisfactory criminal backgrounds check. It was discussed with the Director on this date to develop a binder for staff personnel information. This binder would contain employment applications, initial orientation training, completed training certificates, criminal background check determination letters, and copies of completed pediatric CPR and first aid certificate verification.

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**

Technical Assistance

EX-HS-.P(2)(a-l) - requires the initial orientation to include the following subjects: (a) the program's policies and procedures; (b) the portions of these rules dealing with the care, health and safety of children; (c) the staff member's assigned duties and responsibilities; (d) reporting requirements for suspected cases of child abuse, neglect or deprivation; communicable diseases and serious injuries; (e) Emergency weather plans; and the program's emergency preparedness plan; (f) childhood injury control; (g) the administered of medicine; (h) reducing the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); (i) hand washing; (j) Fire safety; (k) water safety; and (l) prevention of HIV/Aids and blood borne pathogens. It was discussed with the Director on this date that the Program have all current and new employees sign a document indicating the completion of the Program's initial orientation training. This document should be added to all staff members' personnel records.

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 six out of six staff members were missing the completion of the Health and Safety orientation training.

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. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/27/2026

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 a review of records that six out of six staff members did not have evidence of 10 additional hours of child-related task-focused training, including the two hours of language literacy training.

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. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/5/2026

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.