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: 12/11/2025 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring **Arrival:** 2:45PM **Departure:** 4:20PM

EX-56526 EXMT-20154 EX-1 - Government
Smoke Rise ASEDP

4780 Hugh Howell Road, Tucker GA 30084 DeKalb County

Mailing Address

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Exemption Unit Consultant

Sherri Thompson

Phone: (770) 357-7038
Fax: (770) 357-7037
sherri.thompson@decal.ga.gov

Joint with:

Compliance Zone Designation		
12/11/2025	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	

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

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) **N/A**

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

Children's Records

EX-HS-.C Children's Records **Not Met**

Finding
EX-HS-.C(1)(a-d) requires the Program to maintain a file for each child while such child is in care and for a period of one (1) year after such child is no longer enrolled. The file shall contain emergency contact information including, but not limited to, the following:
(a) Identifying information about the child to include name, date of birth, sex, address, living arrangement if not with both Parents, and name of school if applicable;
(b) Identifying information about the Parent(s) to include names of both Parents, if applicable, home and work addresses, and home and work telephone numbers;
(c) Identifying information about the person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached to include name(s) and addresses of the person(s) to whom the child may be released including address, telephone numbers, relationship to child and to Parent(s), and other identifying information; name(s) and telephone number(s) of person(s) to contact in emergencies when the Parent cannot be reached;
(d) Identifying information about the child's primary source of health care to include physician's or clinic's name and telephone number; and a statement regarding known allergies or other physical problems, mental health disorders, or developmental disabilities which would limit the child's participation in the program or any of the program's activities. It was determined based on a request to review a sample of children's records that staff did not have access to children's records on the date of the visit.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will develop, implement, and follow a plan that includes how to obtain all required information for currently enrolled children and ensure the proper collection of information for future enrollees. The plan will also include how and where to maintain files for the required amount of time.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

Exemptions

EX-HS-.X Exemption Requirements **Not Met**

Finding
EX-HS-.X(1) requires a program granted an exemption to post in a prominent place near the front entrance of the facility both a copy of the exemption approval letter issued by the department and a notice provided by the department that will notify a parent or guardian that the program is not licensed and is not required to be licensed by the state. It was determined based on observation at the time of the visit that the program did not have their exemption certificate and approval letter posted in a prominent manner at the program.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will ensure a copy of both the exemption approval letter issued by the Department, and a notice to parents or guardians that the program is not required to be licensed is posted in a prominent place near the front entrance of the facility.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

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 the review of the most recent Fire Marshal inspection that there was not an annual fire inspection available for review. The most recently documented fire inspection was dated June 10, 2021.

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.

Correction Deadline: 1/12/2026

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

Comment
EX-HS-.M(1) - Please ensure all gates in the playground area are closed.

Health and Hygiene

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

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

EX-HS-.H Hygiene **Not Met**

Finding
EX-HS-H(1)(a-f) requires children's hands to be washed with liquid soap and warm running water (a) upon arrival for care; (b) when moving from one child care group to another; (c) upon re-entering the child care area after outside play; (d) before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food; (e) after toileting and diapering and; (f) playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids, and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observation that none of the children washed their hands after snack time.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will train Staff on required handwashing for children and Staff will ensure children's hands are washed when required. The Director will monitor for compliance.

Correction Deadline: 12/12/2025

EX-HS-.I Medications(CS) **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.I(1) - Please ensure medication requirements are met when medication is present in the program.

Policies and Procedures

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

Comment
EX-HS-.J - Determined age-appropriate discipline is communicated to staff on this date.

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 - 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 offered.

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

Comment
EX-HS-.R - Program does not provide routine transportation.

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(1) - Please ensure that there is always a designated staff member in charge of the program who has knowledge and access of items required by the Health and Safety Standards.

EX-HS-.P Staff Training **Met**

Comment
EX-HS-.P - Observed staff training as required.

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.