

**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:** 2/3/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring**Arrival:** 2:10PM **Departure:** 4:15PM**EX-42694 EXMT-12487 EX-1 - Government
Cobb County District ASP - Austell Elementary**5600 Mulberry Street, Austell GA 30106 Cobb
County**Mailing Address****Exemption Unit Consultant**

Nilia Lalin

Phone: (770) 405-7929

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Joint with:

Compliance Zone Designation			Prevention Action Category	Intermediate Action Category	Dismissal Action Category
2/3/2026	EX-CAPS-Monitoring	Prevention	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 (Level 1 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	, Fives, Six and older	3	26	Y	
Gym		0	0	Y	
Playground		0	0	Y	

Group Sizes Met? Y

Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 0

#Staff Count: 3

#Children Count: 26

Comments:

The program was operating as approved by the exemption.

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

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)**Date:** 2/3/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring**Arrival:** 2:10PM**Departure:** 4:15PM**EX-42694 EXMT-12487 EX-1 - Government
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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 - 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****Met****Comment**

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

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

EX-HS-.X(2) requires when a parent or legal guardian initially registers a child with an exempt program, the parent or guardian shall sign a form indicating that the parent or guardian has been advised and understands that the program is not licensed and is not required to be licensed by the state. It was determined based on a review of records that the program did not submit a form or statement for three out of three children's records signed by parents indicating that the parent was advised and understands that the program is not licensed and not required to be licensed by Bright from the Start.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program will obtain and maintain written documentation that the parent or guardian understands that the Program is not licensed and it not required to be licensed by the state.

Correction Deadline: 3/9/2026**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
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Comment

EX-HS-.L - Program appears clean and well maintained.

EX-HS-.M Playgrounds(CS)	Technical Assistance
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Technical Assistance

EX-HS-.M(1) - Please repair the holes under the fall zones in playground K - 2 before allowing the children to use it.

Health and Hygiene

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

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

EX-HS-.H Hygiene	Met
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Comment

EX-HS-.H - Staff were observed to remind children to wash hands.

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

EX-HS-.I - Observed medication stored inaccessible to children. The program has not dispensed medication.

Policies and Procedures

EX-HS-.J Operational Policies & Procedures	Technical Assistance
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Technical Assistance

EX-HS-.J(2) - Please document all emergencies drills, including date, time, number of children present, and length of the drill.

EX-HS-.T Required Reporting	Met
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Comment

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

Safety

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

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

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

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

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

EX-HS-.R - No transportation provided.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

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

Staff Records

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

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

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

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

EX-HS-.K Personnel Records	Met
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Comment

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

EX-HS-.N Staff Requirements	Met
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Comment

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

EX-HS-.P Staff Training	Met
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Comment

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

Staffing and Supervision

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

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