

**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.dec.state.ga.gov

(Cover Sheet)**Date:** 8/6/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring**Arrival:** 2:15PM **Departure:** 4:15PM**EX-44599 EXMT-7815 EX-1 - Government
Calhoun City Schools - Calhoun Elementary
KEEP Program**101 Raymond King Drive, Calhoun GA 30701
Gordon County**Mailing Address**

Same

Exemption Unit Consultant

Nilia Lalin

Phone: (470) 346-1768

Fax:

nilia.lalin@dec.state.ga.gov

Joint with:

<u>Compliance Zone Designation</u>			<u>Prevention Action Category</u>	<u>Intermediate Action Category</u>	<u>Dismissal Action Category</u>
8/6/2026	EX-CAPS-Monitoring	NA	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)	

Staff: Child Ratios					
Room Description	Age Groups	Staff Count	Children Count	State Ratio Met	Notes
151		0	0	Y	
Art Room		0	0	Y	
Cafeteria	, Six and older	1	25	Y	
CES Cafeteria	, Six and older	2	41	Y	
Gym	, Six and older	2	25	Y	
Playground	, Six and older	2	18	Y	
Playground 1st to 2nd Gr.		0	0	Y	
Room 143		0	0	Y	

Group Sizes Met? Y

Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 0

#Staff Count: 7

#Children Count: 109

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

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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The following information is associated with a EX-CAPS-Monitoring:**Activities and Equipment****EX-HS-.A Activities****EX-HS-.A(1) - Activities & Teaching Methods Not Planned/Varied/Appropriate****Met**

EX-HS-.A(1): The program provided a daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities to promote social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language, and literacy growth.

EX-HS-.A(2)(a-c) - Individual attention/inadequate response to child's needs**Met**

EX-HS-.A(2)(a-c): The program provided individual attention to each child as evidenced by playing with and talking to children.

EX-HS-.A(3) - Activities that are not detrimental**Met**

EX-HS-.A(3): Activities observed to be appropriate and safe for children in care.

EX-HS-.F Equipment & Toys**EX-HS-.F(1)(a-b) - Equipment/Furniture/ Materials Not Safe/ Appropriate****Met**

EX-HS-.F(1)(a-b): The equipment, materials, and furniture were observed to be used appropriately.

EX-HS-.F(2)(a-b) - Indoor Equipment/Furniture-hazardous/not clean**Met**

EX-HS-.F(2)(a-b): Indoor equipment and furniture was observed to be age-appropriate.

EX-HS-.F(2)(c) - Indoor Equipment Placement-Unsafe/Restrict Movement**Met**

EX-HS-.F(2)(c): There was a discussion about the placement of indoor furniture and equipment to minimize the risk of incident or injury.

EX-HS-.F(2)(d) - Unsecured Indoor Equipment/Furniture**Met**

EX-HS-.F(2)(d): There was a discussion about ensuring equipment or furniture is secured to minimize the risk of injury or incident.

EX-HS-.Q Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CS)**EX-HS-.Q(1) - Swimming/Wading Pool Accessible To Children (CS)****Not Applicable**

EX-HS-.Q(1): No swimming pools or water-related activities are provided.

EX-HS-.Q(2) - Inadequate Staff: Child Ratio-Water>2 Ft/No Swimtest/ No Lifeguard (CS)	Not Applicable
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EX-HS-.Q(2): No swimming pools or water-related activities are provided.

EX-HS-.Q(2)(a-b) - Inadequate Staff: Child Ratio-Water>2 Ft/No Swim test/ No Lifeguard (CS)	Met
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EX-HS-.Q(2)(a-b): No swimming pools or water-related activities are provided.

EX-HS-.Q(3) - Inadequate Staff: Child Ratio-Water< 2Ft (CS)	Not Applicable
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EX-HS-.Q(3): No swimming pools or water-related activities are provided.

EX-HS-.Q(4)(a-d) - No Additional Adult As Required	Met
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EX-HS-.Q(4)(a-d): No swimming pools or water-related activities are provided.

EX-HS-.Q(5) - No Local Pool Approvals	Not Applicable
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EX-HS-.Q(5): No swimming pools or water-related activities are provided.

EX-HS-.Q(6) - No Parental Permission for Swimming	Met
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EX-HS-.Q(6): No swimming pools or water-related activities are provided.

Children's Records

EX-HS-.C Children's Records

EX-HS-.C(1)(a-d) - * Enrollment Form Incomplete	Met
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EX-HS-.C(1)(a-d): Observed children's files as required.

Exemptions

EX-HS-.W Exemption Requirements

EX-HS-.W(1) - Exemption Notice Not Posted	Technical Assistance
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EX-HS-. W(1): Please post exemption letter and certificate by the main entrance.

EX-HS-.W(2) - No Parent Agreement	Met
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EX-HS-. W(2): Observed signed parent exemption noticed.

EX-HS-.W(3) - Operating outside conditions	Met
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EX-HS-. W(3): Program was operating as approved by the exemption.

EX-HS-.W(4) - Required Information Not Provided	Met
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EX-HS-. W(4): Current program information on file.

Facility**EX-HS-.M Playgrounds(CS)****EX-HS-.M(3) - Inadequate Fall zones and surfacing (CS)****Not Met**

EX-HS-.M(3) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment be adequately maintained by the program to ensure continuing resiliency. It was determined based on observation that the program did not adequately maintained the resilient surface beneath the swings and fall zones in both playgrounds.

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.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2026

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

#Error Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.K(1)-No Record

#Error Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/04/2022

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.K(1)-No Record

#Error Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours

#Error Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.K(1)-No Record

#Error Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.K(1)-No Record,EX-HS-.D-Criminal Records Check Missing

#Error Not Met

Date of Hire: 05/22/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours

EX-HS-.D Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CS)**EX-HS-.D(10) - Recheck Not Obtained as Required****Not Met**

EX-HS-.D(10) requires the program to immediately require a new Comprehensive Background Check Determination if the program knows or reasonably should know that a Director, Employee, or Provisional Employee has been arrested or charged for any covered Crime, when there is a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 calendar days (6 months) or longer, at least once every five years, and when the Department requests. It was determined based on a review of records that staff # 8 did not have a valid Comprehensive Criminal Records Check file due to a lapse in the childcare industry for more than 180 days.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The program will immediately require staff to submit to the Comprehensive Records Check Determination process as required by these standards.

Correction Deadline: 8/7/2026

EX-HS-.G First Aid & CPR(CS)**EX-HS-.G(1)(a-b) - CPR/First Aid Training Not Obtained****Met**

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

EX-HS-.K Personnel Records**EX-HS-.K(1)(a-c) - Personnel Records Not Complete****Not Met**

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, that 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 Records Check Determination. It was determined based on a review of the records that the program did not maintain staff files for staff #1, #3, #7, and #8.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program will secure required information for all Staff and will ensure that complete information is in the personnel file for all Directors, Employees, Provisional Employees, Personnel, Staff, Students-in-Training, Volunteers, Clerical, Housekeeping, Maintenance and other Support Staff.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2026

EX-HS-.P Staff Training**EX-HS-.P(4)(a)-(b)1.-3. - Annual Ongoing Training - Incomplete****Not Met**

EX-HS-.P(4)(a-b) requires (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 staff #3, # 5, and # 10 did not complete 10 hours of ongoing 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.

Correction Deadline: 9/7/2026