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: 3/26/2025 **VisitType:** EX-Monitoring **Arrival:** 2:35PM **Departure:** 4:20PM

EX-42694 EXMT-12487 EX-1 - Government
Cobb County District ASP - Austell Elementary

5600 Mulberry Street, Austell GA 30106 Cobb County
(770) 819-5804 talisa.johnson@cobbk12.org

Mailing Address

,

Exemption Unit Consultant

Nilia Lalin

Phone: (770) 405-7929
Fax: (404) 591-4949
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Joint with:

Compliance Zone Designation		
3/26/2025	EX-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)**	

Staff: Child Ratios

Room Description	Age Groups	Staff Count	Children Count	State Ratio Met	Notes
Cafeteria	, Fives, Six and older	2	22	Y	
Gym		0	0	Y	
Playgroung		0	0	Y	

Group Sizes Met? Y Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 0 #Staff Count: 2 #Children Count: 22

Comments:
The program was in compliance with the approved exemption category.

Corrective Action Plan:Developed This Date

Please refer the website, http://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx , for information regarding October 1, 2018 rule changes about 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

By signing this report I acknowledge that the report was discussed with me and if there are any missing requirements I am responsible for submitting them as outlined to the GACAPS Program.

You have the right to refute any of the citations noted in this report with which you disagree. To refute a citation(s), e-mail the following information to CCSRefutations@decal.ga.gov.

1. Facility name, program number and visit date
2. Your name, title/relationship to the facility, e-mail address & up to two phone number(s) where you can be reached
3. Specific standard(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the citation
4. Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date of the visit to the facility.
5. Your refutation will be forwarded to the CCS Exemptions Unit manager, who will follow up with you about your concerns. If you have any questions about this process, contact our office at 770-293-5977.

Any violation which subjects a child to injury or life threatening situation or continued non-compliance may jeopardize participation in the CAPS program for eligible license-exempt program (government-owned facilities and day camps).

Director/Person-in-charge Signature______________________________

Printed Name____ Date_____________________

Specialist Signature____ Date_____________________

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(Findings Report)

Date: 3/26/2025 **VisitType:** EX-Monitoring **Arrival:** 2:35PM **Departure:** 4:20PM

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Joint with:

The following information is associated with a Exemption Monitoring:

Activities and Equipment

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

Comment
A daily planned program of varied and developmentally appropriate activities observed with various teaching methods to accommodate different learning styles.

EX-HS-.F Equipment & Toys(CS) **Met**

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

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

Comment
Program does not provide swimming activities.

Children's Records

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

Comment
Observed children's files as required.

Exemptions

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

Finding
EX-HS-.X(2) requires when a parent or guardian initially registers a child with an exempt program, the parent or guardian shall sign a form indicating 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 review of records that the program did not submit a form 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 require parents or guardians to sign a form indicating that they been informed and understand that the program is not licensed or required to be license by bright from the Start, and maintain on file for each child.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2025

Finding
EX-HS-.X(4) requires the program to comply with local, regional, and state health department, fire marshal, fire prevention, and building/zoning guidelines. It was determined submit a fire inspection for review.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The program will comply with the fire marshal guidelines and submit a fire inspection report to this department during the next monitoring visit.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2025

Facility

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

Comment
Bathrooms were located down the hall of child care areas.

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

Comment
Please be mindful to keep items that pose a hazard inaccessible to children.

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

Comment
Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

Health and Hygiene

EX-HS-.U Diapering Areas & Practices(CS) **Met**

Comment
Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

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

Finding
EX-HS-.H(1) requires that children wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care, when moving from one child care group to another, upon re-entering the child care area after outside play, before and after eating meals and snacks, handling or touching food, playing in water; after toileting and diapering, playing in sand, touching animals or pets, and contact with bodily fluids, and after contamination by any other means. It was determined based on observations that children did not wash their hands with liquid soap and warm running water upon arrival for care and before and after having snacks.

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: 3/26/2025

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

Comment
Observed signed authorization from parent to dispense medication. The medication has not been dispensed and was stored inaccessible to children.

Policies and Procedures

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

Finding
EX-HS-.J(1)(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) 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; (i) provide to Parents a copy of the Program's written policies and procedures. It was determined based on review of records that the program did not submit documented emergency drills on this date.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The Program will document monthly fire drills, tornado and other emergency drills will be conducted and documented every six months as required. This will be followed up at the next visit.

Correction Deadline: 3/31/2025

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

Comment
There were no incidents or injuries that required reporting.

Safety

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

Comment
Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Comment
No field trips are offered

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

Comment
Program does not provide routine transportation.

Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Comment
No infants are enrolled and safe sleep policies are not necessary.

Staff Records

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

Comment
Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

EX-HS-.W First Aid & CPR **Met**

Comment
Observed evidence of staff training in CPR and first aid on this date.

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

Technical Assistance
Discussed maintaining a complete personnel records.

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

Finding
EX_HS.P(1) requires all employees and provisional employees to receive initial program orientation prior to the assignment to children or tasks. It was determined based on review of records that four out of four employees did not complete the initial program orientation.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The program will develop and provide orientation for all new staff prior to their assignment to children or tasks.

Correction Deadline: 3/26/2025

Finding
EX-HS-.P(3) requires each staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete health and safety training at the time of employment that will count toward required annual training: Staff employed prior to September 30, 2016 will complete the training by December 29, 2016, and staff employed after September 30, 2016 will complete the health and safety training within the first 90 days of employment. It was determined based on review of documentation that three out of four staff members did not complete the 10 hours health and safety training within 90 days of employment.

POI (Plan of Improvement)
The program will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates.

Correction Deadline: 4/25/2025

Finding
EX-HS-.P(4) requires, in the first year of employment and then by calendar year thereafter, all supervisory and caregiver personnel, except independent contractors, students-in-training, and volunteers, to attend ten (10) clock hours of training that is task-focused in early childhood education or child development or subjects relating to job assignment and is offered by an accredited college, university, vocational program, or other department-approved source. It was determined based on review of records that two out of four employees 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: 4/25/2025

Staffing and Supervision

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

Comment
Adequate supervision observed on this date.

Comment
Appropriate staff-child ratios were observed on this date.