

**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.us

(Cover Sheet)**Date:** 1/29/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS Monitoring Follow-Up**Arrival:** 2:25PM**Departure:** 4:00PM**EX-56526 EXMT-20154 EX-1 - Government
Smoke Rise ASED**4780 Hugh Howell Road, Tucker GA 30084 DeKalb
County**Mailing Address****Exemption Unit Consultant**

Sherri Thompson

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Joint with:

Compliance Zone Designation			Prevention Action Category	Intermediate Action Category	Dismissal Action Category
1/29/2026	EX-CAPS Monitoring Follow-Up	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		0	0	Y	

Group Sizes Met? Y

Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 0

#Staff Count: 0

#Children Count: 0

Comments:

Today's visit was a virtual visit for follow-up from the previous visit.

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:** 1/29/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS Monitoring Follow-Up**Arrival:** 2:25PM**Departure:** 4:00PM**EX-56526 EXMT-20154 EX-1 - Government
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The following information is associated with a EX-CAPS-Monitoring FollowUp:**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: 2/5/2026**Recited on 1/29/2026****Exemptions****EX-HS-.X Exemption Requirements****Met****Corrected on 1/29/2026****EX-HS-.X(1) - The program's exemption certificate was observed as posted during the virtual visit.****Facility****EX-HS-.L Physical Plant(CS)****Met****Corrected on 1/29/2026****EX-HS-.L(2) - The program's most recent annual Fire Marshal's inspection was verified and dated April 25, 2025.****Health and Hygiene**

Corrected on 1/29/2026

EX-HS-.H(1)(a-f) - Hand washing procedures were verified at the time of the virtual visit.