

**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:** 2/26/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring**Arrival:** 1:40PM **Departure:** 4:25PM**EX-43907 EXMT-6414 EX-1 - Government
DeKalb County Schools ASED - Princeton**1321 South Deshon Road, Lithonia GA 30058
DeKalb County**Mailing Address****Exemption Unit Consultant**

Keia Cole

Phone: (678) 717-5146

Fax: (770) 342-7801

keia.cole@dec.state.ga.us

Joint with:

Compliance Zone Designation			Prevention Action Category	Intermediate Action Category	Dismissal Action Category
2/26/2026	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
254		0	0	Y	
Art Room		0	0	Y	
Cafe		0	0	Y	
Gym		0	0	Y	
PG		0	0	Y	
PG 2		0	0	Y	
Room 121		0	0	Y	
Room 122		0	0	Y	
Room 149		0	0	Y	
Room 177		0	0	Y	
Room 183		0	0	Y	
Room 203		0	0	Y	
Room 221	PreK, Threes, Fives, Six and older	1	13	Y	
Room 225	, Six and older	1	9	Y	
Room 239	, Six and older	1	16	Y	
Room 245		0	0	Y	
Room 130		0	0	Y	

Group Sizes Met? Y

Total # Non-Care Staff Present: 2

#Staff Count: 3

#Children Count: 38

Comments:

The child care program is in compliance with the approved exemption category.

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:** 2/26/2026 **VisitType:** EX-CAPS-Monitoring**Arrival:** 1:40PM**Departure:** 4:25PM**EX-43907 EXMT-6414 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****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

EX-HS-.C(2) - requires Program Staff to maintain a file for each child that includes evidence of age-appropriate immunizations or a signed affidavit against such immunizations for each child enrolled in the Program on a form approved by the Department, and to allow no child to continue enrollment in the Program for more than thirty (30) days without such evidence. It was observed that the Program did not have access to children's immunization records during the visit on this date. It was recommended that all children's files and mandatory documents be accessible for review by the Department during inspections. The Program was reminded to obtain immunization records for all Childcare and Parent Service scholars.

Exemptions**EX-HS-.X Exemption Requirements****Technical Assistance****Technical Assistance**

EX-HS-.X(3) - requires the program to operate within the criteria within the exemption granted. It was discussed with the Director on this date to submit an amendment for ages no later than March 12, 2026.

Technical Assistance

EX-HS-.X(4) - requires the program to provide a valid e-mail address or other information requested by the department such as but not limited to, the months, days and hours of operation, ages of children served and operating address to the Department. It was discussed with the Director on this date to access the Program's DECAL KOALA account and correct the director name and email address.

Facility

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 a review of records that the Program did not have evidence of a recent Fire Marshal inspection available for review by the Department during the visit.

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. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

EX-HS-.M Playgrounds(CS)**Not Evaluated****Comment**

EX-HS-.M - Playground not observed on this date due to inclement weather.

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

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

EX-HS-.H Hygiene**Not Evaluated****Comment**

EX-HS-.H - Hand washing was not observed during the visit but proper hand washing rules were discussed.

EX-HS-.I Medications(CS)**N/A****Comment**

EX-HS-.I - Medication is not dispensed.

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

EX-HS-.J(2) - requires programs to conduct drills for fire, tornado, 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; to have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, and other emergency situations. The 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. It was discussed during the visit on this date that the after school program must have their own drills conducted and maintained.

Finding

EX-HS-.J1(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) A description of behavior management and discipline actions used by the program, to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care; (i) A description of the practices followed by the Center to prevent shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma in children up to five years of age that includes the following information: how to recognize, respond to, and report the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; strategies to assist staff members in understanding how to care for infants and how to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children. It was determined based on a review of records on this date that the Program did not have policies and procedures that contained sections a-i.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program will revise their policies and procedures to include all required information and update as needed. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

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

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

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

EX-HS-.E - Please be mindful of voice tone in redirecting children.

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

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

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

EX-HS-.R - No transportation provided.

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

EX-HS-.V - No infants are enrolled. No safe sleep policies are necessary.

Comment

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

Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 11

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 11

Staff # 1

Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 2 Not Met

Date of Hire: 04/01/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 3 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/05/2025

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 4 Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/09/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 5 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 6 Not Met

Date of Hire: 12/05/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 7 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/01/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 8 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 9 Not Met

Date of Hire: 03/21/2023

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2024

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours,EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

Staff # 11 Not Met

Date of Hire: 08/01/2024"Missing/Incomplete Components"

EX-HS-.P(4)-Annual Training 10 Hours, EX-HS-.P(3)-Health and Safety Training

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

EX-HS-.D - Observed evidence of Criminal records check.

EX-HS-.G First Aid & CPR(CS)**Not Met****Finding**

EX-HS.G(1)(a-b) requires (a) all Staff who provide direct care to children must obtain certification in a biennial training program in pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a triennial training program in pediatric first aid within the first 45 days of employment. Current and valid evidence of the successful completion of such training shall be maintained on the program's premises. The hours obtained completing this certification will not count towards the required annual training hours; (b) The training must be done by certified or licensed health care professionals or trainers and must deal with the provision of emergency care to infants and children. It was determined based on a review of records that eleven out of eleven staff members did not have evidence of pediatric CPR and first aid training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program will ensure all Staff that provide direct care to children obtain pediatric CPR and first aid training within the first 45 days of employment. The training shall be maintained on the Program's premises and must be completed by a certified or licensed health care professional or trainer that deal with the provisions of emergency care to infants and children. develop a schedule to ensure there is always a staff person with current first aid and pediatric CPR training present, and will develop and implement a plan to ensure all staff members have satisfactorily completed first aid and pediatric CPR training by the specified date. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

EX-HS-.K Personnel Records**Not Met****Finding**

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, and 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 criminal backgrounds check. It was determined based on a review of records that the Program did not have employee files on eleven out of eleven staff members.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program will secure required information for all Staff. The Program 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. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/13/2026

EX-HS-.N Staff Requirements**Met****Comment**

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

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

EX-HS-.P(1) - requires prior to assignment to children or task, all Employees (i.e., volunteers, students-in-training, independent contractors, etc.) and Provisional Employees must receive initial program orientation. It was discussed with the Director on this date to have all staff members, including the Director, complete the initial orientation document and maintain the form for future review by the Department.

Finding

EX-HS-.P(3)(a-k) requires each staff member with direct care responsibilities shall complete health and safety training and Health and Safety Orientation training within the first 90 days of employment. The state-approved training hours obtained will count toward required first year training hours: (a) prevention and control of infectious diseases; (b) prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; (c) administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; (d) prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; (e) building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic; (f) prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; (g) emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a human-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility); (h) handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; (i) precautions in transporting children (if applicable); (j) recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and (k) child development to include all major domains: cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; and approaches to play and learning. It was determined based on review of records that eleven out of eleven staff members were missing the completion of the Health and Safety orientation training.

POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Program will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track Health and Safety orientation training for all employees based on their hire dates. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 3/20/2026

Finding

EX-HS-.P(4)(a-b) requires staff complete annual training (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 ten out of ten staff members did not have evidence of 10 additional hours of child-related task-focused training, including the two hours of language literacy 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. A follow-up will be completed during the next monitoring visit for re-evaluation.

Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026

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.