



**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

**Date:** 9/20/2021    **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study    **Arrival:** 9:00 AM    **Departure:** 10:15 AM

**CCLC-53982**

**First Choice Early Learning Academy**

1938 Old Ocilla Rd Tifton, GA 31794 Tift County  
(229) 326-9517 ar-moore@outlook.com

**Regional Consultant**

Angela Byrd  
Phone: (678) 920-3975  
Fax:  
angela.byrd@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>		
09/20/2021	Initial Licensing Study	Good Standing

**Compliance Zone Designation** - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient.

**Good Standing** - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.

**Support** - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.

**Deficient** - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.

**Ratios/License Capacity**

Building	Room	Age Group	Staff	Children	NC/C	Max 35 SF.	35 SF. Comp.	Max 25 SF.	25 SF. Comp.	Notes
Main	Room A		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room B		0	0	C	13	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room C		0	0	C	10	C	NA	NA	
Main	Room D		0	0	C	19	C	NA	NA	
Main	Special-Use		0	0	C	15	C	NA	NA	
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50						Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0	Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request			
Total # Children this Date: 0			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	69	C

**Comments**

An Administrative Review was conducted on September 8, 2021. Staff files, training, and background checks were all reviewed. An in-person technical assistance visit was conducted on September 8, 2021. A virtual Initial Licensing Study was conducted on September 20, 2021. The exit conference was conducted virtually on September 20, 2021 with the Owner/Director. Permission to Operate will be issued upon completion of the Exit Conference and signature pages are returned to the consultant. Facility does not carry Liability Insurance. A sign was posted on the posted notice board.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed

Any rule violation which subjects a child to injury or life-threatening situation or any rule violations previously cited but not corrected, may result in the imposition of an adverse enforcement action. Serious or continued noncompliance may also jeopardize participation in one or more DECAL program(s).



Please refer to the website, <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/Regulations.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

You have received permission to operate and the form received with this report is intended to serve as a temporary license which is **valid for thirty(30) days**. Your actual license/ will be emailed to you upon receipt of the licensing fee. You may pay the licensing fee either online at <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/> or by certified check or money order mailed to: Bright from the Start, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 670 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

O.C.G.A. Section 42.1.12(i)(2) requires Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to notify licensed child care programs on accessing and retrieving from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) website a list of the names and addresses of all registered sexual offenders. Please see GBI's website located at <http://gbi.georgia.gov> to access the Georgia Sex Offender Registry.

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#### Refutation Process:

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@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:CCSRefutations@dec.state.ga.us).

- 1) Facility name, license 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 rule number(s) that you are refuting, along with your concerns or questions regarding the rule citation

Refutations must be submitted to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

A sample form for submitting a refutation can be found at: <http://dec.state.ga.us/ChildCareServices/RefutationInformation.aspx>

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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**Bright from the Start recommends that all licensed child care providers carry liability insurance coverage sufficient to protect its clients.** If you do not have this liability insurance, you are required to post a notice with ½ inch letters in a conspicuous location in the program, notify the parent or guardian of each child in care in writing, obtain their signature to acknowledge receipt and maintain this written acknowledgment on file at the program at all times while the child attends the program and for 12 months after the child's last date of attendance. (O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-4)



#### Important New Deadlines:

Your program must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020 in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS).

Get started today! Sign up by completing a short online application: <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>  
Request free technical assistance to help you earn your star rating by contacting the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us)

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Alexandra Moore, Program Official

Date

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Angela Byrd, Consultant

Date



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### Findings Report

**Date:** 9/20/2021 **VisitType:** Initial Licensing Study **Arrival:** 9:00 AM **Departure:** 10:15 AM

#### CCLC-53982

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#### Regional Consultant

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The following information is associated with a Initial Licensing Study:

### Activities and Equipment

#### 591-1-1-.12 Equipment & Toys(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On this date, consultant observed equipment, furniture and toys throughout the center, to be non - hazardous, fully - secured, and not able to cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over.

**Correction Deadline: 9/20/2021**

#### 591-1-1-.35 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Center does not provide swimming activities. No pool observed on site.

### Facility

#### 591-1-1-.19 License Capacity(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program has a capacity of 50 occupants.

#### 591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No hazards observed accessible to children on this date. Center appears clean and well maintained.

#### 591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussed maintenance of resilient surface. Please fluff and redistribute.

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Playground observed to be clean and in good repair on this date.

## Health and Hygiene

### 591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no children enrolled in the program on this date. Proper diaper facilities were observed with warm running water and proper ventilation.

### 591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

### 591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussed proper medication documentation and procedures.

## Safety

### 591-1-1-.11 Discipline(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no children enrolled on this date. The center's discipline policy was reviewed on this date. Regulations regarding proper discipline were discussed with the director on this date.

### 591-1-1-.36 Transportation(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Center does not provide routine transportation or field trips. Consultant discussed transportation requirements if/when the facility decides to incorporate transportation. The center will contact their regional consultant and complete the required two (2) hours transportation training prior to transporting children.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

### 591-1-1-.30 Safe Sleeping and Resting Requirements(CR)

Met

#### Comment

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Center does not plan to serve infants and no cribs were evaluated on this date. The correct number of cots/mats, sheets, and cover were observed on this date. Cleaning and disinfecting of mats was discussed with the director on this date.

**Correction Deadline: 9/30/2021**

## Staff Records

**Records Reviewed: 5**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 1

Met

Date of Hire: 09/20/2021

Staff # 2

Met

Date of Hire: 09/20/2021

**Records Reviewed: 5**

**Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 0**

Staff # 3 Met  
Date of Hire: 09/20/2021

Staff # 4 Met  
Date of Hire: 09/20/2021

Staff # 5 Met  
Date of Hire: 09/20/2021

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 1**

**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) Met**

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On this date, consultant observed a Satisfactory Gelmato COGENT Criminal Records Check Determination letter, regarding five (5) center employees. Consultant also discussed all Gelmato COGENT Criminal Records Check requirements with center owner, prior to the visit and on this date.

**591-1-1-.31 Staff(CR) Met**

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**Staffing and Supervision**

**591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Group Size(CR) Met**

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper ratios and classroom capacities were discussed with the director on this date.

**591-1-1-.32 Supervision(CR) Met**

**Comment**

A Virtual Visit was conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper supervision of children, including being prompt to children's needs, was discussed with the director on this date.