



**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:** 11/7/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:40 AM **Departure:** 3:20 PM

**CCLC-53982**

**First Choice Preparatory Academy**

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

**Regional Consultant**

Jackqueline Frederick

Phone: (229) 386-3247

Fax: (229) 238-2435

jackqueline.frederick@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b>			<b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - 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.
11/07/2022	Licensing Study	Good Standing	
04/25/2022	Complaint Closure	Good Standing	
04/21/2022	Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit	Good Standing	

  

<b>Good Standing</b>	- Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.
<b>Support</b>	- Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.
<b>Deficient</b>	- 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	Infants and One Year Olds	1	5	C	10	C	NA	NA	Floor Play,TV
Main	Room B	One Year Olds and Two Year Olds	2	9	C	13	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Room C	Two Year Olds	1	9	C	10	C	NA	NA	Circle Time
Main	Room D	Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds	2	17	C	19	C	NA	NA	Music
Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50					Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0			Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request		
Total # Children this Date: 40			Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50			Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0				

Building	Playground	Playground Occupancy	Playground Compliance
Main	Playground A	69	C

**Comments**

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a licensing study.

Plan of Improvement: No Plan Developed 01/01/0001

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/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



### Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

**Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:qualityrated@dec.state.ga.us) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**

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.

#### 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), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the userid 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 rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule 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.'

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)

Alexandra Moore, Program Official

Date

Jackqueline Frederick, Consultant

Date



**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

**Findings Report**

**Date:** 11/7/2022 **VisitType:** Licensing Study

**Arrival:** 10:40 AM

**Departure:** 3:20 PM

**CCLC-53982**

**First Choice Preparatory Academy**

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

**Mailing Address**  
Same

**Regional Consultant**

Jackqueline Frederick

Phone: (229) 386-3247

Fax: (229) 238-2435

jackqueline.frederick@decal.ga.gov

The following information is associated with a Licensing Study:

**Activities and Equipment**

**591-1-1-.03 Activities**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.03(2) requires the Center to keep current lesson plans on site that reflect appropriate instruction practices and activities to support children's development The Center shall have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the above program of activities in all developmental areas. It was determined that classrooms did not have current lesson plans as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will keep current lesson plans on site that include appropriate instruction practices and activities and will have sufficient and varied play and learning equipment and materials to support the activities.

**Correction Deadline: 11/7/2022**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

A variety of equipment and toys were observed throughout the center.

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center does not provide swimming activities.

**Facility**

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Licensed capacity observed to be routinely met by center.

---

**591-1-1-.25 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.25(11) requires that floor coverings be tight, smooth, free of odors and washable or cleanable. It was determined that several areas/classrooms of the center did not have smooth flooring as required in that broken or missing tile pieces were observed.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

Floors will be maintained to be safe and sanitary.

**Correction Deadline: 12/7/2022**

---

**591-1-1-.26 Playgrounds(CR)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.26(8) requires climbing and swinging equipment to have a resilient surface beneath the equipment and the fall zone from such equipment must be adequately maintained by the Center to assure continuing resiliency. It was determined that the center did not have adequate resilient surface underneath the climbing structures.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center 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: 11/17/2022**

---

<b>Food Service</b>
---------------------

---

**591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition****Met****Correction Deadline: 4/21/2022****Corrected on 11/7/2022****.15(2) - Citation observed corrected.**

---

<b>Health and Hygiene</b>
---------------------------

---

**591-1-1-.10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Not Met****Comment**

Staff state proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.10(3) requires Center Staff to change diapers in the child's own crib or on a diaper changing surface that is used for no purposes other than changing diapers and other clothing in each room where infants or any other children wearing diapers are served. It was determined that the changing pad had a tear and was not in good repair as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure Staff are trained regarding specifically where to change diapers and clothing in each room housing children who are wearing diapers.

**Correction Deadline: 11/7/2022**

---

**591-1-1-.17 Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

Please ensure lids remain on trash containing organic waste.

---

**591-1-1-.20 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

The Provider currently does not dispense/administer medication.

## Safety

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

Met

#### Comment

Age-appropriate discussion and/or redirection observed.

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

Met

#### Comment

Center does not provide routine transportation.

## Sleeping & Resting Equipment

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

Met

Correction Deadline: 6/21/2022

Corrected on 11/7/2022

.30(2) - Citation observed corrected.

## Staff Records

Records Reviewed: 12

Records with Missing/Incomplete Components: 8

Staff # 1	Met
Staff # 2	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 3	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate	
Staff # 4	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate	
Staff # 5	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate	
Staff # 6	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.33(5)-10 Hrs. Annual Training	
Staff # 7	Not Met
<u>"Missing/Incomplete Components"</u>	
.09-Criminal Records Check Missing	
Staff # 8	Met

Staff # 9 Met

Staff # 10 Not Met

Date of Hire: 09/20/2021

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

Staff # 11 Met

Staff # 12 Not Met

"Missing/Incomplete Components"

.33(4)-Food Prep Training Missing 4 hrs.,.33(3)-Health & Safety Certificate

**Staff Credentials Reviewed: 3**

**591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR) Not Met**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(a) requires that a Center ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site. It was determined that a therapist was present and portability expired September 2021.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every actual and potential Director, Employee and Provisional Employee of a Child Care Learning Center submit both a Records Check Application to the Department and Fingerprints to an authorized fingerprinting site as required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The Center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/7/2022**

**Finding**

591-1-1-.09(1)(c) requires the Center to ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. It was determined that a therapist was present without a valid satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

IMMEDIATE CORRECTION - The Center will ensure that every Employee has a valid and current satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination on file prior to being present at the Center while any child is present for care or before an individual age 17 or older resides in the Center. The Comprehensive Records Check Determination must have a Records Check Clearance Date that is no older than the preceding 12 months of the hire date; provided, however, if the Employee has had a lapse of employment from the child care industry that lasted for 180 days (6 months) or longer, a new satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination is required. The program's owner or an officer/member of the corporation must view the A to Z Background Check video units pertaining to this records check rule and return the signed affidavit within one week from this visit date. The center will ensure the CRC rules are maintained.

**Correction Deadline: 11/7/2022**

**591-1-1-.33 Staff Training Not Met**

**Comment**

Discussed: Health and Safety Training is required for each staff member with direct care responsibilities within 90 calendar days of their hire date.

**Finding**

591-1-1-.33(4) requires within the first year of employment, the Director and person with primary responsibility for food preparation shall have four clock hours of training in food nutrition planning, preparation, serving, proper dish washing and food storage. It was determined that the director and cook did not have the required four hour food training.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will schedule food preparation training, as required, and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 12/7/2022**

**Finding**

91-1-1-.33(5) requires that every calendar year after the first year of employment, all supervisory and caregiver Personnel, except independent contractors, Students-in-Training and volunteers shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is task-focused in on-going health, safety and early childhood or child development related topics and which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. The annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall be chosen from the following fields: child development, including discipline, guidance, nutrition, injury control and safety; health, including sanitation, disease control, cleanliness, detection and disposition of illness; child abuse and neglect, including identification and reporting, and meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children; and business related topics, including parental communication, recordkeeping, etc.; provided however that such business related training shall be limited to no more than two (2) of the required ten (10) clock hours of training. Records of completion of such training shall be maintained, as required by these rules. It was determined that two staff members did not have the required annual training.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 12/7/2022**

---

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

**Met**

**Comment**

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**

**Correction Deadline: 4/21/2022**

**Corrected on 11/7/2022**

**.32(1) - Citation observed corrected on this date.**

**Correction Deadline: 4/21/2022**

**Corrected on 11/7/2022**

**.32(5) - Citation observed corrected on this date.**

---

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

**Met**

**Comment**

Center observed to maintain appropriate staff:child ratios.