



**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:** 5/28/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 1:30 PM **Departure:** 4:10 PM

**CCLC-53982**

**First Choice Preparatory Academy**

1938 Old Ocilla Rd Tifton, GA 31794 Tift County  
 (229) 396-5339 firstchoiceela@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Jackqueline Frederick

Phone: (229) 386-3247

Fax: (229) 238-2435

jackqueline.frederick@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** ★ ★ ★

| <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.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 05/28/2025                         | Monitoring Visit                           | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/16/2025                         | Complaint Investigation & Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 01/16/2025                         | Complaint Closure                          | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**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          | 2     | 7        | C                             | 10         | C            | NA                                               | NA           | Nap,Floor Play       |
| Main                           | Room B | One Year Olds and Two Year Olds    | 1     | 8        | C                             | 13         | C            | NA                                               | NA           | Nap,Transitioning,TV |
| Main                           | Room C | Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds  | 1     | 10       | C                             | 10         | C            | NA                                               | NA           |                      |
| Main                           | Room D | Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds | 1     | 10       | C                             | 19         | C            | NA                                               | NA           | Nap                  |
|                                |        | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50     |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              | Building @35 capacity limited by Centers Request |              |                      |
| Total # Children this Date: 35 |        | Total Capacity @35 sq. ft.: 50     |       |          | Total Capacity @25 sq. ft.: 0 |            |              |                                                  |              |                      |

| Building | Playground   | Playground Occupancy | Playground Compliance |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Main     | Playground A | 69                   | C                     |

| <b>Enrolled Children</b> |         |         |         |         |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 years            | 1 years | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years (Prekonly) | 5 years and older |
| 3                        | 14      | 8       | 0       | 9       | 0                  | 0                 |

### Comments

The purpose of today's visit is to conduct a monitoring visit,

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

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.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

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)

#### **Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:**

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 CAPS/ QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward an initial star rating. Provisional Status eligibility will be determined at the time of CAPS enrollment as part of the CAPS application process.

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



**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:** 5/28/2025 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 1:30 PM **Departure:** 4:10 PM

**CCLC-53982**

**First Choice Preparatory Academy**

1938 Old Ocilla Rd Tifton, GA 31794 Tift County  
(229) 396-5339 firstchoiceela@gmail.com

Regional Consultant

Jackqueline Frederick

Phone: (229) 386-3247

Fax: (229) 238-2435

jackqueline.frederick@decal.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

**Activities and Equipment**

**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)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Center appears clean and well maintained.

**591-1-1-26 Playgrounds(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Playground observed to be clean and in good repair.

**Health and Hygiene**

**591-1-1-10 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Hand washing requirements for diapering were discussed with the director on this date.

**591-1-1-17 Hygiene(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Proper hand washing of children and staff was discussed with the director on this date.

---

**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**

Staff were observed to maintain a positive learning environment on this date.

**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)****Not Met****Finding**

591-1-1-.30(1)(b)3 requires that sheets or similar coverings for cots or mats shall either be marked for individual use or laundered daily. If marked for individual use, they must be laundered weekly or more frequently if needed. It was determined based on observation that cots in classrooms C and D did not have sheets as required.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will ensure that sheets are marked for individual use or washed daily and that marked sheets are washed at least weekly.

**Correction Deadline: 5/28/2025**

**Staff Records**

---

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

Criminal record checks were observed to be complete.

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

591-1-1-.33(3) requires each Staff member with direct care responsibilities to complete 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. The training must address the following health and safety topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; 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; prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment; 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); handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; precautions in transporting children; recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and child development. It was determined that one staff member did not have the required health and safety training.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Center will develop and implement a plan to schedule and track this training for all employees based on their hire dates and will ensure that the training includes all required components as required.

**Correction Deadline: 6/27/2025**

**Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing and Supervision</b> |
|---------------------------------|

**Correction Deadline: 1/16/2025**

**Corrected on 5/28/2025**

**.32(4) - Citation observed corrected on this date.**

**Comment**

Adequate supervision observed on this date.