

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC031		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Baby Talk Childcare		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gleann Alainn, Ballygarvan, Co. Cork		
<b>Eircode:</b>	T12 H268		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Patricia O'Sullivan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	04/07/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM 16
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	V. McCarthy		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable		

### Description of service

Baby Talk Childcare is a privately owned service that is registered to provide full day, part time care, sessional care and Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) to children aged between 1 and 6 years. Baby Talk Childcare is situated in a residential area and has use of rooms located on the ground floor of a 2-storey commercial building. There are 2 care rooms in use, namely the Toddler room and the Preschool room. There is an outdoor area located off the preschool room. Opening hours are between 8am and 6pm.

### Staffing

On the day of inspection, there were 5 adults on the premises all working directly with the children. The registered provider was also on the premises and remained office based.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring.

The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-*

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

(a) The service had a named person in charge who was the registered provider and a deputy that could deputise as required.

(b) The named deputy was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises. The registered provider arrived at the service within 10 minutes of the commencement of the inspection and remained office based and available to the inspector for the remainder of the inspection.

(2)

The registered provider confirmed that 3 adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 09 April 2021, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.

(a) There were 3 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 3 adults.

(b) There were 3 references and required validations from sources other than past employers.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 3 adults.

(d) Police vetting was available on file in respect of 2 of these adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of these 3 adults.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 5 adults in attendance with 17 early years children. Additionally, the registered provider was office based. The adult child ratio exceeded the staffing level as required per the regulations.

- There were 6 children in the Toddler room of which 3 were aged less than 2 years and 3 were aged between 2 and 3 years. There was 1 child attending sessional service and five were attending part time/full day care with 3 adults in attendance.
- There were 11 children in the Preschool room all aged over 3 years attending part time/full day care with 2 adults in attendance.

(8)(a) There were always at least two adults on the premises during the hours of operation. The roster demonstrated that there were 3 adults on the premises at 8am and that there would be 2 adults on the premises at 6pm.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

#### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The premises had been repainted and the care rooms were rearranged since the previous inspection which provided a cosy, pleasing and attractive environment for the children that were in attendance. The children's art and crafts were displayed about the care rooms such as paintings of ladybirds, Nemo and rainbows.
- The two care rooms were furnished with child sized tables, chairs, low shelving, soft seating and a variety of play equipment that met the needs of the children. The Toddler room was also provided with a large soft floor matted area that facilitated toddlers to roll and crawl safely.
- All play materials, play equipment and arts and crafts materials in both care rooms were clearly laid out on shelving or in containers and were easily visible and accessible to the children. The play materials and play equipment in the Toddler room such as the soft balls which were stored out of the children's reach were rotated by the adults and brought down to the children's level periodically.
- A sleep room was available off the Toddler room and was furnished with 4 cots and a supply of sleep beds and mats for any child that may require a sleep.
- The outdoor play environment situated off the Preschool room was set up to support the children's free play, imagination, and movement. It was fitted with shock absorbing ground surface and an overhead canopy. It was furnished with a fairy garden area, seating, garden boxes, low see saw, a play kitchen, water play container, blackboard, a digging area, and a selection of ride on play equipment.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- The main entrance door leading into the premises was kept secured to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The outdoor play area was secured by high fencing and a secured gate.
- The doors leading into the 2 storage areas along the main corridor were kept secured and were not accessible to the children.
- The cleaning agents in each care room and nappy changing room were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- All leads and flexes in the 2 care rooms were kept out of children's reach.
- The cords on the window blinds were safely secured by wall brackets.
- The kitchen area in each care room was not accessible to the children as both kitchens were secured by a half gate.
- The highchairs in the Toddler room were each fitted with a functioning safety harness.
- The television in the Preschool room was wall mounted high out of the children's reach.
- The high unit in the main reception area was anchored securely to the wall.

##### Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before snack and mealtimes and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- All toilet areas were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water at the wash hand basins, liquid soap and paper towels. The water temperature was recorded at 28.2°C during the inspection.
- The changing mat was sanitised after each nappy change and the children's hands were washed and dried hygienically.
- Disposable aprons and gloves were available to the adults when they carried out nappy changes on the children.
- Children's bags and belongings were stored on wall hooks or in shelving units.

- Wipes, nappies and barrier creams were individually labelled and not for communal use. They were stored on individually labelled shelves.
- A box of paper tissues was available in each care room for any child who required a tissue for their nasal hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe hygienic disposal of used paper towels.
- The children's bed and cot linen were labelled and stored individually.
- Detailed daily and weekly cleaning templates were maintained by the adults and were available for review by the inspector.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The outdoor messy play kitchen was not maintained in good condition as some screws and nails were exposed on the rear panel which posed as an injury hazard to the children.
2. The staff room which was positioned along the same corridor as one of the children's toilet cubicles and nappy changing room was not secured. It was potentially accessible to an unsupervised child and posed as a safety hazard to the children as flexes, electrical equipment and the washing machine were stored at child height in this room.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The registered provider stated in the corrective action and preventive action (CAPA) form returned to the inspector on 31 July 2023 that the outdoor play kitchen that was in disrepair was removed immediately after the inspection. The registered provider will ensure that the condition of all outdoor play equipment is checked daily with the aid of a checklist record.
2. A latch has been fitted to the staff room door and the door will be kept secured so that unsupervised children cannot access it.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. A photograph of the outdoor play area without the messy play kitchen was submitted on 31 July 2023.
2. A photograph of the staff room door fitted with a latch was submitted to the inspector.

## Summary Comment

The documentation and photographs submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliances was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) The adults checked in and out each child attending the service and maintained a daily written record and a digitalised record by use of an application regarding each child's attendance. Each of the 2 care rooms maintained its own record of attendance and all records were maintained accurately at the time of arrival or leaving. The records reflected the correct number of children in attendance in each care room.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 25 - First aid

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*

- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*
  - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

### Compliance Information

- (1)  
The service provided evidence that 3 adults had up to date training in first aid response (FAR) and that one of these adults was always on the premises.
- (2)
- (a) There were 3 fully equipped first aid boxes available on the premises. All were wall mounted high out of children's reach.
  - (b) The first aid boxes were always available on the premises.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

### Compliance Information

(d) The inspector noted that the premises, play equipment and materials were all maintained in clean and good condition. The inspector was informed that the premises had been repainted since the last inspection. The registered provider and a named adult from the Toddler room carried out all the deep cleaning at the premises and the remainder adults practiced a 'clean as you go policy' and attended to routine daily cleaning duties.

Detailed cleaning template records were available for review by the inspector.

(e) There were 2 toilet cubicles and 1 nappy changing room on the premises available for use by the early years children. One toilet cubicle was situated off the Preschool room and the second toilet cubicle and nappy changing room were both situated between the 2 care rooms off the main corridor. There were hand basins available in each of the toilet and nappy changing areas. There was one toilet and one wash hand basin for adult's use positioned off the main reception area. The hot water was thermostatically controlled, and the water temperature was recorded at 28.2°C. A supply of liquid soap and disposable paper towels were available beside each wash hand basin for hygienic handwashing and hand drying. Pedal operated bins fitted with lids were provided throughout the premises.