

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015CC058

Name of Service BEL Childcare

Address of Service: 1 Calderwood Donnybrook Douglas Cork T12 X361

Email Address: john@belchildcare.com

Name of Registered Provider: John Bowman

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	↓	Part-Time	↓	Sessional	↓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Increase the total number of children in attendance aged between 1 and 3 years from 53 full day care to 65 following the refurbishment of an additional care room.

Proposed Number of Children: 65 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase the maximum number of children catered for at any one time. The additional playroom has space for 11 children aged between 2 and 3 years.

Registered change: Change in Number of Children from 53 to 64 children

Date of Inspection:	0	6	0	2	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: M. O Reilly

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency Hospital, Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, West Cork P81 PD78

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 64 children
Date of Registration	3 rd March 2025

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	<p>BEL Childcare is a privately owned service, that offers a choice of full day and part time care to children. The childcare facility is registered to cater for children aged 1 to 6 years; however, it currently accommodates children from the age of 1 to 3 years. Daily opening hours are from 7.30am to 6.00pm. At present, the service is registered to cater for a maximum of 53 children attending part-time or full day care.</p> <p>A proposed Change in Circumstances application has been submitted to increase to a maximum of 65 children aged between 15 months and 3-years attending part time or full day care service each day.</p>
Premises	<p>The premises are purpose-built/adapted service located in a residential area of Douglas. The building consists of ground floor service with 3 playrooms, toilet / nappy changing facilities, a sleep room, kitchen facilities, staff area, laundry, office, and a fully enclosed outdoor area. The service had a Fit for Purpose Inspection in April 2023, and the inspection report outlined the space available in the three playrooms in operation and there has been no structural change to these rooms since.</p> <p>An additional room (staff room) has been refurbished into a playroom which will allow the service to have 4 playrooms in operation.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service proposes to have a minimum of two adults who will work directly with the children in the additional room. The staff will hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education The service proposes to increase the overall number of staff employed in the service from 15 to 17.</p>
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, deputy, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

Part III - Management and Staff



Child and Family Agency Act 2013
Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Version 05
Implemented- Aug 2022
EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a) The service had a named designated person in charge and a named deputy. The registered provider, person in charge and deputy were present for the fit for purpose inspection.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The additional room is named the Senior Toddler Room 1

The registered provider proposes that this room will accommodate children from 2 to 3 years with two staff in attendance.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider—

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The care room was laid out with equipment and toys providing play and learning opportunities to enhance the learning needs of the children under 3 years. The equipment and toys were located on low-level shelving providing easy access and choice. A number of resources providing opportunities for gross motor skills were available in the outdoor play area including push and pull toys. A covered sand box was available for sensory play and floor games including hopscotch were painted onto the all-weather surface, providing additional opportunities for gross motor play.

(b) There was a designated rest/quiet area with soft furnishings including a large soft padded floor mat and cushions in the playroom.

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Adequate facilities for rest were provided in the service for the number and age range of children attending. The sleep room facilitates the children under 2 years with a large number of cots. Appropriate sleep beds were also provided for children between 18 months and 2 years who required a sleep. Rest facilities with stackable beds are provided to those children over 2 years in their own room.

(2)

(a) A suitable, safe, secure, partially covered outdoor play area was located beside the service with an all-weather surface tile cover. The children were observed playing outdoors at time of inspection. The children will have access to the outdoor play area in a rota system with the children in the other playrooms in the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- A Healthy Eating policy is available at the service. For children attending the service, meals will be prepared by a designated cook, in the onsite kitchen. Meals consist of breakfast, a mid-morning snack, a hot meal, an afternoon snack and an evening snack. A menu plan was in place and regular offering of liquids will be ensured for the children aged between 1 and 3 years.
- Perishable foods will be refrigerated.
- Appropriate crockery, cutlery and bibs will be provided for children during mealtimes.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met in the proposed new playroom.

Senior Toddler Room 1

General Safety:

- The openable windows in the playroom were at adult height.
- Blind cords were secured with hooks and located at adult height.
- All electrical flexes were inaccessible in the care room.
- Fire exits were free from obstruction.
- Cleaning agents are maintained in locations that were out of children’s reach.
- The first aid box was stored out of children’s reach.
- The air temperature of the sleep room was maintained between the recommended range of between 16°C to 20°C, for safe sleep practice. While the sleep room was not occupied at time of inspection the temperature of 19.90°C was recorded in the sleep room.

Infection Control:

- The playroom was kept adequately ventilated, with openable windows for the circulation of fresh air.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water, Liquid soap, paper towel dispensers / electric hand driers and foot pedal operated bins were available in the toilet and nappy changing facilities for effective handwashing practices.
- A cleaning schedule was in place at the service. The proposed care room designated nappy changing area and toilet were observed clean and well maintained.
- Single use gloves and aprons were available to support hygienic nappy changing.
- Individual baskets were provided for the children’s nappies, wipes and barrier creams.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The relevant certification was available to demonstrate that some of the staff have completed an in date First Aid Response (FAR) training. At least one of these adults will be available to the children at all times.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was accessible and was adequately stocked.

(b) The first aid supplies will be available and accessible throughout the hours of operation.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) A written record was available to document regular monthly fire drills. The most recently conducted fire drill took place on 17 January 2025.

(b) The maintenance records indicated that the smoke detection system was serviced on 16 September 2021 and the firefighting equipment was last checked by a fire safety company on 19 March 2024.

(4) The fire evacuation procedure, outlining details of the steps to be followed in the event of a fire, was displayed within the premise.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.
Documentation was available to evidence that the service was insured. The certificate stated that the service is insured for 70 children on a full day care basis. Expiry date of 27 March 2025 was recorded on insurance certificate.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.
(a) The registered provider stated that the service was of sound and stable structure.
(b) The main entrance to the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the preschool. The outdoor play perimeter was adequately secured with walls and metal fencing and high gates. The gates were secured by a staff member prior to the when the children were playing outdoors
(c) The care room and sanitary areas were supplied with natural light from a window and artificial light from covered fluorescent lights on the ceilings. The care room has natural ventilation from the openable windows. The sanitary facilities have mechanical ventilation system in place. Heating is supplied from under floor heating and each room including the sleep room have individual monitors that record the air temperature. The air temperature in the playroom was recorded at 19.9°C.
(d) The new playroom had a clean, bright and well-maintained appearance. There was a cleaning schedule in place daily.
(e) The service was equipped with suitable sanitary facilities with a ratio of 1-11 for toilets and nappy changing units for the proposed number of children. There were three children’s toilets and five nappy changing mats The ratio of 1-8 for adult sanitary areas applies and there were sufficient toilets for the adults with 3 adult toilets and wash hand basins present.
The service used the public water supply and sewage system.

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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that there will be adequate floor space available for the work, play and movement of the proposed additional 11 children aged between 2 and 3 years who will be attending the proposed full day care or part time service in the Senior Toddler Room 1.

(3) While the registered provider submitted a request for 12 children to be accommodated, the total floor space of 27.20m² in the playroom allows for 11 children aged between 2 and 3 years with a minimum of 2.35m² of clear floor space available for each child attending the full day care and part time service in this room.