

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

Email Address: john@belchildcare.com

Name of Registered Provider: John Bowman

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change:	Increase number of children that can be accommodated
Proposed Number of Children:	58 (amended to 53 in consultation with registered provider)
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	53
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 43 to 53

Date of Inspection:	2	7	0	4	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: C Stokes
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:
 Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Office,
 St Mary's Health Campus,
 Gurrabraher, Cork

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 53 Children
Date of Registration	31 st May 2023

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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	Bel Childcare (Bilingual Early Learning) was established as a private full day care service in 2014. It is registered to offer full day care from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. It is registered to cater for children aged from 1 to 6 years but caters for children in the 1-3 years category. It offers ECCE Pre-School Sessions, and full-day care. The service operates from 07:30am to 6pm. The setting has a play-based pedagogical approach.
Premises	The premises is a in a residential area of Douglas with three playrooms. The premises is a purpose-built/adapted service. The service consists of 3 playrooms, toilet facilities, 2 nappy changing rooms, a sleep room, kitchen facilities, staff area, laundry, and office.
Staffing	The registered provider was not service based on the day of inspection. The adults working directly with the children had major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education. In addition, there was a chef on the premises.
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	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met. The service has designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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 registered provider proposes to ensure that an adequate number of adults work directly with the children as follows,

Room (age range)	Adults	Children
Wobbler (12-24 months)	3/4	11
Junior Toddlers (2-3 years)	4	19
Senior Toddlers (2-3 years)	4	23

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—

(b) 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.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

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(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) Facilities are provided for play indoors as all the playrooms are laid out with defined interest areas which were adequately equipped for the proposed numbers of children in each room. The outdoor sessional service was being resurfaced and re-designed to enhance the outdoor play environment with stimulating, challenging and developmentally appropriate play equipment and materials.

(1)(b) Adequate facilities for rest are provided in the service for the number and age range of children attending. There sleep room facilitates sleep on demand for the children under 2 years with 18 cots. No children under 1 year are proposed to be catered for. Rest facilities with stackable beds are provided to those children over 2 years in their own room.

(2)(a)(b) Not applicable. The registered provider has ensured that an outdoor area is available for the use of the pre-school children daily.

(3)(a) The service has a suitable, safe, and secure outdoor area.

(3)(b) Not applicable. Facilities for outdoor play were provided on site.

(4) The outdoor space was observed to be suitable, safe, and secure. Children have access to the outdoor play area daily.

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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.

The registered providers provide all meals and snacks to those in attendance, except those children attending on a sessional basis. A weekly menu plan was in place and available for inspection which included morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack. Meals and snacks were varied and suitable. Drinks are available to children with meals and between meals (potable water). The on-site chef prepares the fresh food daily.

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:

GENERAL SAFETY:

- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the preschool.
- Cleaning agents were noted to be stored out of the reach of children.
- The outdoor areas were secured.
- Blind cords were secured with tension devices.
- No electrical cables were observed to be accessible to the preschool children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The playrooms were kept adequately ventilated, with openable windows for the circulation of fresh air.
- The service had warm running water, liquid soap, and paper towels and the thermostatically controlled hot water.

SAFE SLEEP:

- Ten-minute physical sleep check records were in place.

FIRE SAFETY:

- Records of monthly fire drills were in place, the most recent dated 17.04.23.

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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 registered providers ensured that 5 adults hold a valid First aid certification (FAR).
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was readily available in all playrooms, outdoor area, and kitchen.
- (b) The first aid box was fully equipped, and available to the pre-school children at all times.

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) Arrangements were in place to record fire drills. The monthly fire drill record was in place, most recently 17 April 2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. The firefighting equipment and alarms were serviced on the 6 March 2023 and 17 February 2023 respectively.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playrooms.

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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. The service has cover for 58 children attending for full day care.

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 premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The playrooms were safe and secure. There were clear arrangements in place for the safe handover of children via the entrance door.

(c) Adequate lighting was provided by enclosed diffusers. There was natural light in the playrooms. The windows were openable in the playrooms. These rooms appeared well-ventilated. The heating was a combination of underfloor and electric storage heaters in the service.

(d) Cleaning equipment was safely stored on high shelves inaccessible to children. There was a cleaning schedule currently 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. The ratio of 1-8 for adult sanitary areas applies and there were sufficient toilets for the adults with 3 adult toilets present. The service used the public water supply and sewage system.

Room	Toilets/ Changing units	Proposed Children
Wobbler (12-24 months)	2 nappy changing stations	15
Junior Toddler	shared use of wobbler nappy changing station	24
Senior Toddler	2 toilets & 2 nappy changing stations with 2 sinks (including disability access toilet station)	23

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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
 (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)
 Adequate floor space is provided for the free movement of children to work and play in the service as the service has sufficient space for the amended proposal of 53 children based on the details below.

(2)

Room	Space	Initial Proposed No of Children	Children Approved
Wobbler (12-24 months)	31.38m ²	13	11
Junior Toddler (2-3 years)	44.53m ²	21	19
Senior Toddler (2-3 years)	54.14m ²	24	23
Overall Numbers		58	53

(3) Not applicable as this service is a full day care.

(4) Not applicable. The registered provider provides full day care and sessional care separately as the outdoors is the designated sessional care and no space ratio applies in this area.