

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC058
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Name of Service:	BEL Childcare
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Address of Service:	1 Calderwood, Donnybrook, Douglas, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T12 X361
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Name of Registered Provider:	John Bowman
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	26/06/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM	35
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork.
Inspection undertaken by:	C Stokes
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

BEL Childcare (Bilingual Early Learning) is a private childcare facility offering Full Day Care Early Years Care and Education. It was established and registered in 2015. It is registered to cater for children aged from 1 to 6 years. It currently offers pre-school sessions, part-time and full- day care to children aged 1 to 3 years. The service operates from 7:30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. The premises comprises of a ground floor service with 3 playrooms, toilet facilities/ nappy changing, a sleep room, kitchen facilities, staff area, laundry, office, and a fully enclosed outdoor area.

Staffing

The registered provider is not service based and does not work directly with children. Adults working directly with children had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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. The inspection 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 person in charge, 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 registered provider and a designated person in charge.
- (b) The designated person in charge and deputy were working at the service when the unannounced inspection commenced and the remained available throughout the inspection process.
- (2) 25 adult's files were reviewed, 20 of whom were present on the day of inspection.
- (a) There were 30 written and validated references on file from past employers.
- (b) There were 20 written and validated references available from sources other than previous employers.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau was in place for all adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was in place for 20 early years practitioners, who had lived outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) A recognised award in Early Childhood Care and Education or letter of recognition of qualifications from the DECDIY had been attained by 20 early year practitioners. 5 adults, 3 of whom were part of the management team, plus the cleaner and cook did not have or require such a qualification.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained as follows:

Room	Adults	Children
Wobbler (aged 12-18 months)	3	9
Junior Toddler (aged 18-26 months)	4	10
Senior Toddler (aged 24-36 months)	5	16
Total	12	35

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

BASIC NEEDS:

- Breakfast, snacks, and meals were observed to be served throughout the day with appropriate gaps between meals/snacks. Adults were observed to sit with the children and interact to make the mealtime a social occasion. The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used for the main meal and snacks were suitable for the children's age and stage of development. Appropriate levels of independence were encouraged by the adults at snack and mealtimes.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop independence regarding personal care, particularly, with hand washing after outdoor play and prior to meals.
- Nappy changing was observed to occur regularly. For those children who were toilet trained they were supported to be independent by the adults.
- Quiet/sleep time was facilitated in the sleep room which facilitated sleep for children under 2 years with 18 cots. 16 stackable beds were in place for children over 2 years to facilitate sleep in the sleep room. In the playrooms, cozy areas for rest and relaxation were evident.

- Children’s need for mobility was met with the outdoor play area being used on the day of inspection. Children had access to outdoor play, both in the morning and afternoon.

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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the preschool.
- The outdoor area was secured and fully enclosed.
- Blind cords were secured, and no electrical cables or leads were observed to be accessible to the children.
- Cleaning chemical/products were inaccessible to the preschool children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, paper towels/electric hand dryers were in place for hand washing/drying.
- Waste in the playrooms was disposed of in appropriate lidded pedal bins.
- Handwashing prior to dinner was observed.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned down prior to and after snack/meals.

Administration of Medication:

medicine was observed to be administered on the day of inspection. Staff spoke competently about the medicine administration process and storage and an individualised care plan was in place for a child requiring this due to epilepsy.

Safe Sleep:

There were 18 cots in the sleep room, with appropriately fitting mattresses with waterproof covers. There were 16 stackable beds observed in the sleep room. Several approved floor beds were in storage and not in use on the day of inspection. Records were available of the ten-minute checks conducted on the children in the sleep room.

sleep room temperature was recorded at 20.5°C on the day of inspection, this was appropriate as all children were 12 months of age in the service.

Fire Safety:

- No serious fire safety concerns were noted as escape exits were unobstructed.

Outing:

- No outings were observed on the day of inspection. The person in charge stated the service does not conduct outings.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. On the day of inspection, the water temperatures at the children’s sinks in the sanitary areas measured 48.7°C and 47°C respectively. This is above the maximum safe temperature of 43°C for general safety for children washing their hands.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The registered provider advised that a plumber was on site to adjust the water temperatures at the children’s sinks and will monitor the water temperatures going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A copy of the record of water temperatures for a week was submitted as evidence by the registered provider to give an assurance that the water temperature was below 43°C and was being monitored and recorded.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence from the registered provider were assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of this regulation.

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

(2) (a)(b) The registered provider ensured that a fully equipped first aid box, was readily available/accessible in the service. A first aid box was stored in the Senior Toddler room and a second box was shared between the Wobblers and Junior Toddler rooms. First aid supplies were also kept in the office.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no adult on the premises trained in first aid response (FAR) available on the day of inspection between the hours of 7.30am and 8am, however there were staff with paediatric first aid in the service at this time.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider responded to state that staff with FAR were now rostered from 7.30am daily in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

The staff roster and FAR certs were submitted to evidence that FAR trained adults are on site during the hours of operation.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence from the registered provider were assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of this regulation.

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 firefighting 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured that a record of the fire drills was maintained. The most recent fire drill was dated 17 May 2024.

(b) The registered provider ensured a maintenance of the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms were maintained. These records were dated March 2024 and June 2024 respectively.

(4) A notice of the fire evacuation procedure was on display on the door of the office in a prominent position.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the setting was adequately insured for a full day care service valid until 27 March 2025.