

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC079		
Name of Service:	Busy Bees Montessori School		
Address of Service:	Ring, Ballymacoda, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P25 HY22		
Name of Registered Provider:	Colette Cronin		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	2 February 2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM n/a

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms. M. O'Reilly
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	Not Applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Busy Bees Montessori School is a registered privately owned early years service in operation since 2003. This service is registered to cater for children from 2-6 years and at time of inspection the service was catering for children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years offering a sessional service to the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The current opening hours are from 09:30am to 12:30pm each day Monday to Friday.

Busy Bees Montessori School operates from one designated playroom in the registered providers private residence located in a rural area in east Cork. The room has been adapted for the purpose of an early years service. The service has a designated outdoor play area located to the rear side of the facility.

Staffing

There was a total of four staff and that includes the registered provider who is serviced based. The staff working directly with the children all hold 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/ 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/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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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) There was a named designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The named person in charge and the deputy were present when the inspector arrived on the premises on the day of the inspection and remained for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The Inspector concentrated on vetting one adult present at the service since the last inspection carried out at the service on the 20th October 2020. The inspector focussed on this sample of files during the inspection.

(a) There was no reference on file from a past employer in respect of the adult.

(b) There were two references with a corresponding written validation for each on file from a sources other than a previous employer.

(c) A completed Garda vetting disclosure was received for the adult.

(d) Not applicable as the adult had not worked outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

The adults that worked directly with the children all hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

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

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times.

(3) On the day of the inspection there were 21 children aged over two years and eight months with four adults in attendance in the service.

During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations.

(8)

(a)

Not applicable as the service was not operating single-handedly.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- There was a registration form for each child in attendance. A sample of six records were assessed and were found to be compliant

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

- The service promoted healthy eating and the food provided by the parents and guardians for the mid-morning snack was observed to be healthy and nutritious.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Self-toileting by the children was encouraged. The staff members were observed to supervise and assist where required each of the children when hand washing and hand drying, and the children were supported and encouraged prior to eating and post toileting.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The continuity of the same staff working in the service created close relationships with the children and their parents. This promoted the development and sustainment of relationships between the children, their parent and the staff in the service.
- The staff members were observed speaking with the children during snack time and using it as an opportunity to enhance social interaction with the children which promoted a relaxed atmosphere.
- The staff members supported children in the development of language skills through one-to-one interaction with each of the children along with large group discussions and at storytelling time as observed during the morning session.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The playroom in operation was observed to be well maintained, clean, pleasant, and comfortable.
- The room had a range of play-based materials and equipment including Montessori equipment and materials that offered stimulation, exploration, and imagination. They were positioned at an accessible level on open shelving which nurtured independence, facilitated choice, and encouraged curiosity, spontaneous play and movement.
- The playroom had a few interest areas such as a home, a fine motor skills area, tabletop activities, book area.

- The room was laid out to facilitate sensory experiences through arts and crafts, fine motor development was supported with the use of jigsaws, shape sorters, crayons and paper to draw on. A range of books were available in the reading area which supported children’s language and development.

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.

Compliance Information

- On day of inspection the food and drink provided by the parents/guardians for the mid-morning snack were observed to be healthy and nutritious with age-appropriate size quantities of each food type for example freshly cut fruit, sandwiches, bread sticks dipped in cheese and yogurts. The service provided water to drink at the snack time.

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:

- Access to the main entrance door was adequately secured that prevented unauthorised access by an unauthorised person or exit by a child.
- Each internal door was suitably secured to prevent the children gaining access to unsupervised areas such as the door to the domestic house.
- The play materials, resources and equipment were in a satisfactory condition.
- The playroom had its own cleaning agents which were adequately stored and out of children’s reach.

Infection Control:

- Playrooms and communal areas were adequately ventilated by natural and mechanical forms of ventilation.

- Personal waste including used tissues and all cleaning waste was appropriately disposed of in foot operated pedal bins in the service.
- The children had access to sufficient toilets and wash hand basins.
- A supply of liquid soap, paper towels and thermostatically controlled hot water were available in the service.
- Hand washing occurred regularly and at required times by both the staff and children in the service.

Fire Safety:

- A record of monthly fire drills was presented for examination.
- All fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.

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) Two staff members held a certified, up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificate.

(2) (a) There was a sufficiently stocked first aid box available in the service, which was safely stored out of reach of children.

(b) At all times when the service was in operation, first aid supplies were accessible to the adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 13/01/23.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced on the 29th August 2022
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

- The service has certification to confirm insurance cover for a total of 22 children. Insurance cover expires on the 27/03/2023