

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE008
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Name of Service:	Bons Bunnies Creche
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Address of Service:	Rockforest, Galway Road, Barefield, Ennis, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 H320
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Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Rynne
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	A.McCarthy
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
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Description of service

Bons Bunnies Creche is a privately operated full day care service, located in a purpose-built premises on the outskirts of Ennis, County Clare. The service is facilitated Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18.00. The programme of care is provided in three care rooms and a separate room is available for the children to sleep. An enclosed outdoor play area for the children is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider, three members of staff and a relief person are employed and work directly with the children in the service. All staff members have an appropriate qualification 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. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19(1)(a), 23, 25, 26 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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*

(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)

During the inspection, the registered provider was the designated person in charge and a named staff member was available to deputise as required.

(b)

Both the designated person in charge and the person who is assigned as deputy were available at all times.

Five files were available in respect of the registered provider, the three staff members and the relief person. The findings included the following:

(2)(a)

Nine written and validated references sourced from past employers were available.

(b)

Where past employer references were not available, one written reference was obtained from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda Vetting disclosures were available and reviewed in respect of the registered provider and the four members of staff.

(d)

International police vetting was not required in respect of the five members of staff employed by the service.

(4)

The staff working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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)
On the 18th of September 2023 an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children attending the service.

(2)
During the inspection the ratio of adults supervising caring for children was maintained, four staff cared for thirteen children.

(8)(a)
The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available in the service at all times.

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

(1)
A registration form was available for each child enrolled in the service and were available for review by the inspector. Sixteen forms were reviewed by the inspector and detailed the particulars outlined in (a)-(i).

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)

Basic Needs of Children:

The inspector observed the children's learning, development, and well-being to be supported by the members of staff. The staff interacted with the children in a kind and caring manner this was observed by the staff conversing with the children at their level in a respectful manner and responding promptly to their cues for assistance.

Staff held and comforted the babies during bottle feeding periods. Staff sat next to the children in their highchairs during mealtimes. The infant's nappies were changed on an individual needs basis and the staff carried out these procedures in a sensitive manner. The staff supported the older children to be independent during toilet training and offered praise and encouragement. The children's sleep needs were responded to appropriately and children who did not wish to sleep were provided with an alternative room to play and learn in. Areas were provided for the children in the indoor area with soft furnishings and reading materials and used by the children periodically to rest and relax. The older children were encouraged to be independent while caring for their personal belongings, using the toilet, participation in tasks and tidy up time. The babies and toddlers freely moved in their rooms and were encouraged to crawl and walk. The children were afforded an opportunity to play in the outdoor area. Toilet training was based on the child's stage of development and their readiness to start training rather than their age.

On arrival to each room the children were fully engaged in open ended table-top and floor-based play activities. The children attending the Baby room were offered opportunities to engage in tummy time, freely crawl, roll and stand. The room provided a space with a range of surfaces, activities, and equipment. The babies freely accessed toys and the play equipment and the relaxation area. The children in the Toddler room were offered a range of activities from pretend and sensory play and singing nursery rhymes, developing speech games and story time.

The children attending the preschool room transitioned from table-top play-based activities, to art based activities to story time and outdoor play. Each care room provided a range of developmentally appropriate activities. The toys, play materials and furniture were accessible to the children.

The outdoor play area had an all-weather surface, and a large selection of play equipment was available in a storage shed. The play equipment included: three large playhouses, scooters, activity stations, trikes, slides, a rocking horse, a ball pool, a toy lawn mower, a basketball net, trucks, outdoor Jenga, and a sand box.

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 entrance to the service was secure. A bell operated system was in place to prevent unauthorised persons accessing the service and unsupervised children from leaving the service.
- The furniture, equipment and materials within were maintained in good condition.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of the children.
- The outdoor area was secured safely with an enclosed with a fence and gate.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in clean condition, surfaces, equipment and mouthing toys were cleaned after use.
- Running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and pedal operated bins were available to support good handwashing practices.
- The children's and adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals which included after messy and outdoor play, after using the toilet and nappy changes and before mealtimes.
- Protective clothing and bibs were provided during mealtime and messy play.
- Individual bed linen was available for the children.
- The babies' soothers were stored in individually labelled containers.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection. Documentation was available detailing parental consent to administer prescription and non-prescription medication when required and parental signatures were available after medication was given.

Safe Sleep:

- The children were placed to sleep in standard cots in the sleep room and on low level mattresses in a dimly lit care room.
- The children's sleep observations detailing their position, colour and breathing were recorded.
- The room temperatures in the sleep rooms were maintained between 18 to 20 degrees Celsius.
- Staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the safe sleep practices policy.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exits and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- The service's fire assembly point was readily identifiable for staff and children.
- The staff and children undertake monthly fire drills to prepare for emergency situations.

Outing:

- The registered provider confirmed that outings are not undertaken by the service.

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 registered provider had a record of up to date First Aid Responder training and the four staff had certification for paediatric first aid.

(2)(a)
A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a readily identifiable area in the service.

(b)
A first aid box was available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 24th of August 2023.

(b)

A record of the number, type and maintenance for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system were available. The most recent firefighting equipment and smoke alarm maintenance service took place respectively on the 24th of August 2023 and on the 12th of October 2022.

(4)

Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed throughout the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for twenty-two pre-school children. The policy is valid until the 27th of March 2024.