

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE024
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Name of Service:	Bambini Kids Ltd.
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Address of Service:	Church Road, Tulla, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 PF68
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Name of Registered Provider:	Claire Cavelleri
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Service type:	Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	12/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Child & Family Agency, Primary Care Building, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
Inspection undertaken by:	J Hayes
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

This service commenced operation in 2003. The service provides sessional care for up to a maximum of twenty-two pre-school children, between the ages of 2 years and 8 months to 6 years. The service is open Monday-Friday 09.00hrs – 12.00hrs. The afternoon session does not operate at present.

Staffing

The registered provider operates the sessional service with the assistance of two adults who were all present on the 12 March 2026 when the unannounced inspection was carried out.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) and (3)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 26- Fire safety measures (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 29 – Premises (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)

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Regulation 30- Minimum space requirements (3)

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*

(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*

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(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 registered provider was the person in charge, and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The registered provider and the deputy were available during the inspection.

(2)

Three files were available in respect of the registered provider and the adults working in the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

Six written and validated references were available from a past employer.

(b)

All available references were from a past employer therefore references from sources other than past employers were not required.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the adults currently working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

International police vetting was available in respect of the adult working in the service who had lived in other states for periods longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications from Level 6 to Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1)

During the inspection, an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.

(3)

On the 12 March 2026 the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Three adults cared for the twenty-one children attending the service on a sessional basis.

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)

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

The adults interacted with the children in a kind and respectful manner. The adults listened attentively and conversed with the children at their level and responded promptly to their cues for assistance. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions, and the children were offered praise and encouragement. The adults demonstrated an awareness of the children's personal interests and capabilities. The adults supported the children in individual and group play based activities throughout the session and were actively involved in the children's play by initiating games and joining in when invited to by the children. The programme of care and education was child

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focused and the children were notified in advance of transitions in activities. An informal communication approach was observed during interactions with parents/guardians. The adults discuss the children's day and observations with the parent/guardians during drop off and collection times. A strong ethos of teamwork was evident in the service with all adults working very well together to support the children.

Physical and Material Environment:

The programme of care and education was facilitated in one open plan care room and in the outdoor play area. The children engaged in open ended tabletop and floor-based activities in the indoor environment. The care room was bright and was adequately resourced for the age range and stage of development of the children. Designated areas of interest were accessible and were appropriately equipped with supporting materials and equipment for the children. The play equipment and materials were located on low level shelving accessible to the children and supported child led play. The walls were illustrated with children's artwork, learning activities for the week, geographical, numerical and literacy learning aids.

The area to the front of the service offered a space for the children to engage in outdoor play-based activities. The outdoor play area was enclosed by a fence and gate. The children have access to an activity unit with a slide and climbing frame. There was sufficient space for children to engage in physical exercise and play through running, jumping and climbing.

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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)

A record of completed monthly fire drills was available. A fire drill took place on the 11 March 2026.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the smoke alarm system and the firefighting equipment took place on the 29 May and 17 September 2025 respectively.

(4)

Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at the exit points in the building.

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 children attending on a sessional basis. The policy is valid until 27 March 2026.

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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.*

Compliance Information

- (a)
The premises appeared to be well maintained with no visible structural issues.
- (b)
The premises was secured with a thumb turn lock at the door to prevent children exiting unsupervised and prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- (c)
Natural lighting was provided through five windows and three Velux windows. A room temperature of 18.3°C was maintained with heating provided by oil fired radiators and supplemented with an electric heater. All windows in the service were openable to provide natural ventilation.
- (d)
The service was well maintained with daily, weekly and monthly cleaning schedules in place.
- (e)
The children had access to sanitary facilities adjacent to the pre-school room. The sanitary facility was appropriately equipped with child sized toilets and wash hand basins. A sanitary facility was also available for use by the adults. The water temperature at the wash hand basins was recorded at a safe temperature of 42.5°C. Liquid soap and paper towels were provided for handwashing and drying and a pedal operated, lined, lidded bin was provided for the safe disposal of waste.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(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.

Compliance Information

(3)
On the 12 March 2026 adequate clear floor space was provided for the 21 pre-school children attending the care room on a sessional basis. The care room measured 51.15 m².