

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS139
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bambi's Childcare Company Ltd.
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	U3 Greenpark Shopping Centre, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Bríd Corr
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	22/11/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	10
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Carty
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Bambi's Childcare Company is a privately owned part time and sessional service located in an urban setting in Southwest Dublin. A service is provided to children aged 3 to 6 years. The service offers two separate sessional services and is open Monday to Friday from 8.40am to 11.40am and 11.45am to 2.45pm for 38 weeks of the year. The premises is located in a purposely adapted retail premises and comprises of 1 care room, sanitary accommodation and an office area.

### Staffing

There are six staff employed to work in the service. On the day of inspection there were five staff members present during both sessions in the morning and afternoon. The registered provider does not work in the service.

### 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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11, 15, 19, 23 and 25.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15, Record of a Preschool Child.

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 children, person in charge and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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.*

*(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

*(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

The inspection focused on the recruitment records of all staff who worked in the service.

(2)

(a)(b)

Of the twelve references required ten written and validated references were available from a past employer. A further two written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults.

(d) International Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived outside of the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4) Records were available detailing the required qualifications or equivalent for all staff members.

### Non-Compliance Information

(3)

One Garda vetting disclosure and four references were not adequately validated prior to three adults commencing work in the service.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

(3) New employees will not start until vetting is complete and all references are checked.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

No supporting documents submitted.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider will address the non-compliance and has met the requirements of Regulation 9.

This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### 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) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. On the day of inspection there were four adults working directly with seventeen pre-school children in the morning and four adults working with 10 preschool children in the afternoon.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times during the inspection.

### 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 sample of nine records were reviewed by the inspector.

The registered provider ensured that a record in digital form was kept of the details relating to (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) of the above Regulation for all of the records reviewed.

## Non-Compliance Information

(1) (b) The registered provider did not ensure that a record in writing was available showing the date the child began attending the service on all of the records reviewed.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)

Registration forms have been updated to include start date. When parents are filling out registration forms, they must fill in start date to complete the form.

### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the new registration form was submitted.

## Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation was reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 15.

## 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-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection.

The play experiences in the service were observed to be child-led. Children were observed exploring their environment, engaged in activities and playing with each other and the staff. Older children were observed using the toilet independently. Snack time was a sociable occasion with staff sitting with children also eating during this time, engaging in conversation.

Staff were observed interacting warmly with the children when providing personal care and demonstrated an awareness of each child's individual care needs. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children, addressing them by name and asking for permission for example when wiping noses, children were also given the opportunity to wipe their own noses.. Staff demonstrated kindness and affection during all interactions observed by the inspector. Staff made themselves available to the children to scaffold and extend learning as well as be available should a child require support.

An emergent curriculum was evident in the service. Children's interests were clearly incorporated into the activities and interest areas. Ongoing observations and assessments were documented which informed curriculum planning. There were a variety of equipment and materials that met the developmental needs of the children. Children's language development was supported through group discussions, singing and storytelling which was observed the day of inspection.

An online interactive application was used by the service where staff directly communicated details surrounding each child's day to parents including information on activities enjoyed throughout the session. There was evidence that the service engaged with external agencies in order to enhance the experience of children who were attending with additional needs.

### 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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending

##### **General Safety:**

The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environment was safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products, medications, and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

##### **Infection Control:**

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. All children's hands were washed prior to eating and following use of the toilet.

##### **Administration of Medication:**

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required. Detailed care plans were in place for children who may need emergency medication in the event of a severe reaction.

##### **Fire Safety:**

The emergency exits were free from obstruction. Regular fire drills took place to aid safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

#### Non-Compliance Information

### Fire Safety:

1. On the morning of the inspection there were seventeen children present, however only eleven had been signed in. This could affect the safe evacuation and accountability of all children in the event of an emergency.

### Outing:

2. As the service does not have an outdoor area on the premises, staff stated they regularly use the local green area or go for walks locally so children can access the outdoors during their time in the service. The staff member stated they had last accessed the local area three times the previous week however, there was no risk assessment available detailing what checks had taken place prior to the outing as per the service policy. The last available completed risk assessment available for inspection was dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

### Fire Safety:

1. The sign in book is now kept at the front door, each day a staff member is assigned to signing the children in and a staff member will sign the children in as they come in the door.

### Outing:

We have started doing risk assessment for outdoor local walks on paper form to ensure records are kept together and for easy access for inspections. We have created a new template that will be used daily going forward. The responsibility is given to a staff member weekly to ensure the risk assessment is completed each day manually.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

### Fire Safety:

1. No supporting documents were submitted.

### Outing:

A copy of the risk assessment form was submitted for review by the inspector.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation was reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23.

## 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
There was evidence available to demonstrate that there was a person trained in First Aid Responder available to the children at all times.