

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS171				
Name of Service:	Honeybears Community Childcare				
Address of Service:	Quarryvale Resource Centre, Shancastle Avenue, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin				
Eircode:	D22 V6T0				
Name of Registered Provider:	Carol Bishop				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	14/10/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>6</td> <td>PM</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </table>	AM	6	PM	9
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8.				
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Duff				
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

Honeybears Community Childcare is a not-for-profit service located in Clondalkin, Dublin 22. The service is registered for full, part and sessional care however at present the service only provides two three-hour sessional services, one in the morning and one in the afternoon for children aged 2 to 6 years. There is one large preschool room available to the children with an outdoor area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs four staff members, including the registered provider. The registered provider works directly with the children. On the day of inspection three staff members were present.

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

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This inspection was unannounced and focused on the areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child, information and records and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (1)(2)(4) Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels.

Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, welfare and development of child.

Regulation 21 Equipment and materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of child

Regulation 28 Insurance

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.

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Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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-

- (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*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required, the designated person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2)

No additional staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 12 May 2023. Garda vetting disclosures were assessed for each of the four staff members employed in the service. The following documentation was available;

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for four staff members employed to work in the service. Garda vetting disclosures from all staff members were assessed and met compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day and part time services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were six children attending the service being supervised by four staff members on the morning of the inspection and nine children attending the service being supervised by two staff members in the afternoon.

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

A calm and welcoming atmosphere was evident on arrival at the service and throughout the inspection.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed children by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. Language used by the staff members was observed to be encouraging, supportive and informative.

Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to new activity and for mealtimes.

The service provides all food for children. Mealtimes were social occasions with children having the opportunity sit with each other and staff and to extend mealtimes according to their individual wishes or to leave the table when finished eating. The service has a healthy eating policy which is shared with parents/guardians in advance of enrolment.

Child sized tables and chairs allowed the children to eat and engage in tabletop activities. There was evidence that equipment and materials provided were based on the children's individual needs and emergent interests.

The outdoor area was equipped with a range of toys and materials to support play experiences.

Children enjoyed freedom of movement in the indoor and outdoor play areas and were observed to engage in a range of activities without restriction, this supports their social, cognitive, gross and fine motor development.

Engagement with families and parents is facilitated by the daily sharing of information on the child's day. This is shared through conversations at drop off and collection and supported by electronic means. On the day of inspection transitions to and from preschool were observed to be friendly and informative to parents or guardians collecting and dropping off children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

Adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment were available on the premises. The pre-school room was furnished with age-appropriate tables and chairs. The room was arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the opportunity to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included home corner, dress up, construction area, hairdressers, barbershop, musical instruments, art materials and easels. Each area was adequately resourced with a variety of materials. The materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. A selection of age-appropriate books and puzzles were available in the care rooms. A separate sensory room was available to children just off the main room, this was equipped with a comfortable chair and sensory lighting and equipment.

The outdoor area was equipped with bicycles, scooters, playhouses and benches for rest.

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:

- When the inspector arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorized persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. In addition, the outdoor play area was enclosed, restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.
- Anti-febrile medication and cleaning agents to include disinfectant sprays and liquids were stored on high shelves or in high cupboards.
- Toys and equipment in the indoors environment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.

- The outdoor area was observed to be suitable, safe and secure with domestic bins stored out of children's reach and all outdoor play materials maintained and in good condition free from hazards.

Infection Control:

- Both the indoor and outdoor environment were maintained in a clean condition; staff were observed to clean toys and equipment between the morning and afternoon sessions.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, and pedal operated bins.
- The children and staff members washed their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of procedures to safeguard children when administering medicine. This included getting written consent from parents or guardians, having a second staff member present as a witness during administration, and maintaining detailed records shared with parents or guardians upon collection.

Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff adequately detailed the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire and evacuation procedures were on display in the care room.

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 full day service was insured. The insurance certificate provided for review showed cover for the 12 children and an expiry date of 16 December 2025.