

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS199
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Bambinos Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 1, Greenhills Centre, Greenhills Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D12 F1T2
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Louise Viti
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day Care
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/05/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	12
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Mary Redmond
<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

This private childcare service was acquired in July 2023 by the registered provider. Full and part-time day care is provided for children aged two to five years of age; a sessional service is also available. The service is registered to cater for a maximum number of twenty-five pre-school children.

The service operates from an adapted retail premises in an urban area of Dublin southwest. Two care rooms are available and one of these rooms is used for children to sleep on low beds at a certain time during the day. There is an enclosed area to the rear of the premises which has an artificial grass covering and a permanent shelter to allow children to be protected from the weather. A good variety of outdoor play equipment and materials were provided in this area.

### Staffing

There were five adults employed to work in the service including the registered provider. Adults employed to work with pre-school children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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 areas of governance, care of the child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 22 Food and drink

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

Regulation 26 Fire safety measures

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 reoccurring. 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 co-operation of the registered provider and staff members who facilitated the inspection and children 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.*

*(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 files for five adults who were employed to work with pre-school children were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a) There were two written validated references available from previous employers for all adults employed in the service.
  - (b) References from other sources were not required.
  - (c) Garda vetting dated within the last three years was available for all adults.
  - (d) Police vetting was not required for any adults.
- (4) There was evidence that adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were three adults working directly with fourteen children in the morning and caring for twelve children in the afternoon; the registered provider was also available.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Details of children’s attendance was accurately recorded.
  - (i) A staff roster was available.
  - (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a child, should it be required, and that administration of medication should be witnessed.
  - (k) Details of accidents and incidents were recorded and there was evidence available that parents were informed following an accident or incident involving their child.

## 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

The registered provider ensured that nutritious and varied food and drink was available for children attending and there was a healthy eating policy which outlined how healthy eating habits are implemented in the service. Children were offered food at frequent intervals throughout the day. Breakfast which consisted of a choice of cereals and toast was offered until 9am and parents supplied a healthy snack for children who availed of “seamless snacking” throughout the morning. A substantial snack of ham and cheese sandwiches, a selection of chopped fruit and milk to drink was offered to children at lunchtime. Extra portions were readily available, and children were observed to take extra portions when offered. A hot meal was supplied by an external catering company and was served to children later in the afternoon. Water was immediately available to children at all times during the day including when they were playing outside. Children’s dietary and cultural needs were catered for, including children who had sensory issues regarding food.

## 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 door to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access or children exiting unsupervised. Toys and play equipment observed in use by children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored safely and out of reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

Good hand hygiene practices were facilitated through the provision of warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels. Children's hands were washed after outdoor play and before eating, and adults washed their hands before serving food to children. The nappy changing procedure observed was effective for infection prevention and control and followed the nappy changing policy which was on display. Foot pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of waste and were used appropriately by adults and children.

##### Administration of Medication:

Documentation was available to support the safe administration of medication when required and procedures were in place to safely administer medication.

## 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) Adults working in the service had appropriate qualifications in first aid and were always available to children.

(2) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available.

(a) They were stored safely in conspicuous positions in the service.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to children at all times.

### 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.

#### Compliance Information

- (1) A record was available for the following:
- (a) There was a record to demonstrate that fire drills take place regularly.
  - (b) A maintenance record was available to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 18 April 2024.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) There was no record to demonstrate that the smoke detection and alarm system had been serviced in accordance with requirements.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

Servicing of the smoke detection and alarm system took place on the 17 June 2024 and regular servicing of the system has been scheduled going forward.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of the maintenance record was submitted.

#### Summary Comment

The inspector is satisfied that the regulatory requirement has been met.