

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY036
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Name of Service:	Bunratty Community Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	Northside Civic Centre, Bunratty Road, Bonnybrook, Dublin 17, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Helen Mc Hugh
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date(s) of Inspection:	01/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne, E Hosford
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Bunratty community childcare centre is a community service which was established in 2013. The service provides full day and part time care to children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates from a two storey purpose built premises located on the grounds of Northside Civic Centre on the northside of Dublin city. On the ground floor, there are three care rooms in the service – The Waddler room (age 1 to 2 years) , the Toddler room (aged 3 to 5 years and the Preschool Room (Aged 3 to 5 years), a dining room and a kitchen and on the first floor there is an office, staff room and a cot room, which was not in use on the day of inspection. Each care room has access to its own individual outdoor area which was located to the rear of the care rooms. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and operates from 8.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday

Staffing

There were 22 adults present on the day of inspection, of which, 13 were working directly with the children including one student. The assistant manager was supernumerary and provided support during busy periods and covered rostered breaks. The additional staff members present were the person in charge, three chefs, one cleaner, one maintenance person, one administrator and one receptionist. The registered provider does not work directly with the children attending 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 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment; (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels; (1), (2),

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid; (1), (2) (a)(b)

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

The scope of the inspection included all three rooms - The Waddler room, the Toddler room and the Preschool room.

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment was assessed in relation to all staff currently employed and

Regulation 11- Staffing Levels were assessed across all of the rooms.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

(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

(2) During the Inspection, the files of 30 staff members were reviewed.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for 9 staff members from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for 14 staff members from a past employer.

(b) Two written and validated references were available for 7 staff members from a source other than from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for 14 staff members from a source other than a past employer.

- (c) Garda vetting was available for 30 staff members.
- (d) Not applicable as the registered provider provided evidence to demonstrate that police vetting was not required for any staff member currently employed.
- (4) Evidence available demonstrated that 17 staff members who worked directly with the children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs (DCEDIY).

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) Documentation was not available for two students, who provide relief as required by the service, to demonstrate that held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs (DCEDIY).

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (4) It was agreed to no longer use these students as ratio staff until they have completed their full qualification or received a letter from DCYA confirming their eligibility to work in the sector.
Students have been asked to contact their colleges for clarification on their right to work in the sector and to also apply to DCYA for qualification if applicable. Staff absence policy to be updated to include the following “Any third level student being used as relief staff must provide the service with valid evidence of an Early Childhood Care and Education qualification at level 5 or above deemed eligible by the DCEDIY with the purpose of work with the sector. Letters from the colleges are not deemed eligible”

Supporting documentation submitted

No Evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The non-compliance outlined above under Regulation 9 has been addressed.

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 were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as follows:

On the day of inspection, there were 9 adults working with 17 children in the morning, and 7 adults working with 15 children in the afternoon.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as follows:

During the morning:

Waddler room – 3 adults to 6 children aged between 1 to 2 years.

Toddler room – 2 adults to 3 children aged between 3 years to 5 years.

Preschool room - 4 adults to 8 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

During the afternoon:

Waddler room – 2 adults to 6 children aged between 1 to 2 years.

Toddler room – 2 adults to 4 children aged between 3 years to 5 years.

Preschool room - 3 adults to 5 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

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

- The care rooms in the service were designed with the age and stage of development of the children having been taken into consideration. Children were observed to take part in free play and group work on the day of inspection. For example, in the Toddlers room, building plastic blocks and completing an art activity of making clouds. The layout of the rooms facilitated these choices as the toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving and were accessible to the children. There was equipment to reflect the children’s interests and their emergent curriculum.
- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children according to their age and stage of development, to include home areas with play kitchens, cash register, dolls with clothes and buggies, range of construction toys to include jigsaws and wooden puzzles, plastic building bricks, magnetic squares, waffles, stickle bricks, toys for transporting such as cars, trucks, trains and tracks, and small world play toys of small characters, and animals; dress up for imaginary play and arts and crafts materials with paint, paint sponges, pencils, pens, glitter, glue , stencils, black boards, white boards.
- Rest areas were available in the cares rooms to enable children to rest and take a break from activities, they consisted of soft mats, rugs, and books.
- Displays of pictures of the children who were attending with their families and their birthdays were displayed in the service which supported children’s well-being and identity and belonging.

Non-Compliance Information

1. In the Waddler room, equipment and materials present for the enjoyment and engagement of the children were not accessible such as:
 - the inspector observed at 10.34am and at 2.30pm, the low-level table and chairs were inaccessible to the children during free play between mealtimes, limiting the tabletop play opportunities, despite the children being of an age and stage of development to enjoy sitting at a table for an activity.
 - The Mirror with a pull up bar and activity was not accessible to the children aged 1 to 2years, as it was positioned too high on the wall for the children to reach.
 - The Dress up activity was not accessible to the children as it was blocked by a table.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Room layout has been redesigned and wall activities have been lowered. Ongoing support will be provided from the floor supervisor with the room leader regarding the environment and children's needs.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic Evidence submitted

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 21, the non-compliance as outlined above has been addressed.

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:

- Access to the service via the front door was monitored by reception staff employed by the service. A secure door which operated on a buzzer system preventing unauthorised access into the service and unauthorised exit from the service.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the day of inspection.
- Documented attendance records demonstrated the children present in each care room.
- The outdoor areas were secured with a surrounding wall which reduced the risk of unauthorised access.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs for children under 2 years of age, were facilitated with access to cots or sleeper beds for sleep.
- Children were provided with cellular blankets for sleep.
- Sleep checks were completed every 10 minutes by staff members during sleep time of children.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the Toddler room,
 - The visibility strips present on the low-level glass windows of the patio doors were not effective at reducing the potential risk of injury to a child as some were faded and some were missing.
 - There was a trailing flex from a fan within reach of the children, leading to a risk of injury.

Infection Control:

2. In the main hallway of the service, the inspectors observed cots, sleeper beds and low beds stored between uses, with sheets and blankets on them in the open environment of the corridor, leading to poor infection control.
3. The dining room of the service was used for storage of clean laundry of blankets and sheets and for toys and equipment, leading to poor infection control.
4. In the Waddler room, children's hands were not washed before dinner time.
5. In the Toddler room, the wall was damaged with exposed plaster and not washable or wipeable, leading to poor infection control.
6. In the Preschool room, the cover of shelving was damaged and not washable or wipeable, leading to poor infection control.

Safe Sleep:

7. In the Waddler room, two children under two years of age were observed to be sleeping on sleeper beds. A sleep assessment for one child was incomplete as section C of the form was not completed by staff, this is at variance to the best practise sleep guidelines issued to the sector in September 2023.

Fire Safety:

8. The service roster presented to the inspectors during the inspection, did not correctly reflect the staff present in the service, leading to a risk of safety in the event of evacuation, for example the rostered hours for one staff member was documented as 8.30am to 5.30pm but the staff member was present from 12.30pm to 5.30pm.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1.
 - Visibility stickers have been bought and placed on glass windows and doors. Extra stickers have been left in the rooms for the room leaders/ staff to monitor and replace as needed. Visibility stickers added to the daily risk assessment sheet.
 - The trailing flex has been secured to the wall. Trailing cables and daily risk assessment discussed at Team meeting held 22 November 2023.

Infection Control:

2. Plastic zip lock bags have been purchased to place bedding for individual child when being stored. Each bag is labelled with the child's photo and name. All staff informed of this change and made familiar with the new procedure by the room leaders.
3. This area has been decluttered and equipment and blankets have been removed. Laundry to be returned to the rooms once dried or stored in the correct designated area. The partitions have been erected to divide the area for the children who use the dining room for dinner. Monitoring of the area daily to ensure compliance will be completed by Floor Supervisor/Manager.
4. Room leader spoken to about the importance of hand washing. Spot checks done by Floor Supervisor/ Manager to ensure that hand washing is happening at appropriate times throughout the centre. This was discussed and reviewed at the Team meeting 22 November 2023.
5. Room to be repainted 3 January 2024. Room leaders are aware that on the removal of displays from the walls, if any damage is apparent to raise this matter with the Management. Inform caretaker as soon as possible so that the matter can be remedied.
6. The unit recovered with wipeable materials. All storage units in the centre to be audited regularly for damage.

Safe Sleep:

7. Room leader was informed of this non-compliance, on the evening of the inspection and the form was completed in full the next day. Room leader to get the manager/ floor supervisor to sign off on all forms. The form has been edited to include witness signature which needs to be signed off by the Manager or Floor supervisor.

Fire Safety:

8. The roster will be updated daily to reflect any changes to the roster as it happens. All reception staff/admin and senior childcare staff informed to adjust the roster at reception when an absenteeism is reported. Staff have been told to check that their attendance is correct when rosters are issued on Fridays. Roster will be edited daily, and any changes reflected daily.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic Evidence submitted

Infection Control:

Photographic Evidence submitted

Safe Sleep:

Copy of Sleep form submitted

Fire Safety:

No evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The non compliances outline above under Regulation 23, have been addressed.

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 service provided evidence that six adults trained in First Aid Response were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.