

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY308
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Name of Service:	Bloomfield Childcare
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Address of Service:	46 Bloomfield Park, Bloomfield Avenue, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D04 E8X5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Carmel Ewing
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	03/07/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	27
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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 G. Kavanagh
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

Bloomfield Childcare is registered to provide part time and full time care for children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 07:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

The service is located on the ground floor of an apartment building in a residential area of Dublin south. There are 4 preschool rooms in the service. The Wellyboot room caters for children aged 2. The Sunflower room caters for children aged 2 to 3 years. The Flowerpot room caters for children aged 3 to 4 years and the Watering Can room caters for children aged 3 to 5 years. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are 15 adults employed to work in the service including the person in charge and the registered provider. The registered provider does not work directly with the children but was present on the day of inspection.

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 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)(3)(4) Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels.

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

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

Regulation 25 First Aid

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 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
- (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-

- (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,
- (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

(1)

(a)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(c) The service had a clear management structure and staff were aware of their own role and responsibilities.

(2)

The inspection focused on regulations (2)(a)(b), (d), and (4) for 9 adults who had commenced employment since the previous inspection on the 23 January 2023. Records for all adults were inspected for regulation 9(2)(c).

The following documentation was available;

(a)(b)

Of the 18 written and validated references that were required, 4 were available from a past employer and 5 were available from a reputable source.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for 15 staff members employed to work in the service. Garda vetting disclosures from all staff members were assessed to determine compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Documentation reviewed showed Police vetting was required for 8 adults employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 23 January 2023 who had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult. The required documentation was available for 2 of the adults.

(4)

Records were available evidencing that 8 adults who were employed since the last inspection to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. 1 adult did not require a qualification as they were employed under a work placement programme.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b) Nine written and validated references for five adults employed to work directly with the children were not available for review.

(d) Police vetting was not available for 6 adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(a) (b) The registered provider sourced and verified the outstanding references and will ensure all references received are verified in the future prior to an employee commencing employment.

(d) Police vetting is now in place for all adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult. The registered provider will ensure translated police vetting is available in the future prior to an employee commencing employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed 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)

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 time services was adhered to at all times during the inspection.

There were 33 children attending the service being supervised by 10 adults on the day of inspection.

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 busy and welcoming atmosphere was evident on arrival at the service and throughout the inspection. The children moved freely in all rooms – exploring their environment, playing and engaging with each other and the staff. Staff members addressed children by name.

Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to a new activity and mealtimes. Drinks were readily available within the care rooms. The service provides all snacks and hot meals. Snack time was a social occasion with children and adults sitting together having the opportunity to chat about the morning. The service has a healthy eating policy and menu 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 room had a mix of Montessori materials, toys and equipment which were laid out on low level shelving units and accessible to children. All care rooms also had cushions and floor mats to facilitate rest or provide a place for children to take a break from activities.

The service has scheduled times for use of the outdoor area, on the day of inspection 2 groups used the area together.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

1. In the welly boot room, the transition from lunch to sleep time was observed to be unsettled. Children were asked to remain partly lying down on a soft cubed seating area from 12:10-12.17, while waiting to go to the sleeping area, children's feet remained on the floor as the space available was not sufficient to allow all children lie down fully. A child's comfort toy was withheld until he lay down in a way directed by staff. Children attempted to leave the area but were asked to lie back down.
2. Although it was recognised that the service had ample toys and equipment in the shed in the outdoor area to provide a range of play experiences, many of the materials were inaccessible to children. Children were observed to ask for equipment from the shed but were refused. Equipment available in the garden on the day of inspection included 5 hula hoops, 3 toy shopping trolleys and 3 plastic funnels. 18 children were present in the outdoor area. Children were observed to argue over the 3 toy shopping trolleys available during outdoor play.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has stated:

1. Transitions have been addressed with the staff, staff have been made aware that children can choose activities at a time that suits them, also, children will be supported with transitions. Ongoing training will be scheduled for all staff to support their understanding of how transitions should be managed.
2. A monthly review of the outdoor equipment will take place; the outdoors will be included in the class schedules.

Supporting documentation submitted

No Supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider will address the non-compliance. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 securely gated restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored in a locked press or out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Soothers were kept in individual labelled containers to avoid cross contamination.
- Each child was provided with their own bed linen, which was laundered daily.
- Both the indoor and outdoor environment were maintained in a clean condition.
- 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:

- A sample of medication records were reviewed. The forms were completed correctly. This included ensuring written consent was obtained 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.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep logs were maintained in the care rooms where children slept, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. The required temperature range of 18 - 22°Celsius was maintained while children slept.

Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Throughout the garden, uneven safety slabs were observed to be loose and lifting. This created a trip hazard for children and staff.

Infection Control:

2. In the children's sanitary area, adjacent to the welly boot and sunflower room, the sink surround was water damaged, and the laminate surface above the sink had broken away in places exposing a sharp, unfinished, porous wooden surface. This could not be cleaned effectively posing a potential risk of infection to children. This non-compliance was observed on the last inspection on 23 January 2023 . The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
3. In the children's sanitary area, adjacent to the welly boot and sunflower room, the nappy changing mat was observed to be worn and cracked which prevented adequate cleaning and posed an infection control risk.
4. In the watering can room, the children's sofa was observed to be cracked and torn which prevented adequate cleaning and posed an infection control risk.

Fire Safety:

5. Documentation was not available to demonstrate that fire drills were practiced monthly. The last fire drill recorded was 11/10/2024. Through discussion with staff, they stated fire drills are practiced every 2/3 months. Through discussion with two new staff members, it was evident that were not familiar with the fire drill procedure or evacuation point.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The registered provider stated that a company has been contracted to carry out repairs on the outdoor safety surface. A monthly maintenance visit by the service provider will now take place to ensure the area is safe.

Infection Control:

The registered provider has stated:

2. A company has been contracted to carry out repairs on the sinks in the sanitary areas in the welly boot and sunflower rooms, a monthly check will be conducted by the service provider to ensure all areas are well maintained.
3. A new changing mat has been bought and is in place in the sanitary area, adjacent to the welly boot and sunflower room
4. A new children's sofa has been ordered for the watering can room.

Fire Safety:

5. Fire Drills will be conducted every week – one room at a time to ensure that sufficient knowledge of procedures is given to each individual classes.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Infection Control:

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Fire Safety:

No Supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.

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

(2)(a) (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) Although it is acknowledged that an adult trained in First Aid Response was available from 7:30-16:30, the service could not provide evidence that an adult trained in First Aid Response was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school. An adult trained in First Ais Response is not available from 16:30-18:00 each day. This non-compliance was observed on the last inspection on 23 January 2023 . The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The Registered provider has stated that the service will restructure staff to ensure a staff member trained in First Aid Response is available to the children. Additional training is planned for September to ensure adequate staff are suitably trained in First Aid Response.

Supporting documentation submitted

No Supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.