

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL027
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Name of Service:	Olive's Bizzy B's Preschool Limited
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Address of Service:	Loughshinny Community Centre, Loughshinny, Ballykea, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K34 R925
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Name of Registered Provider:	Olive Power
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	12/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	Not applicable
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Y Kelly & N McEndoo
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

Olive's Bizzy B's Preschool Limited is a part time Early Years service which operates from a community centre located in Loughshinny, Co Dublin. The service has sole use of the community centre during the operational hours from 9am to 2:00 pm. The service caters for children aged two to six years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) for eligible children. There are two care rooms in the service namely the Honeybee room which is located in the main building and the Hive which is located in an adjacent building. A large outdoor play area is located to the rear of the service.

Staffing

The service employs 9 staff members including the registered provider who works directly with the children on a daily basis in addition to being involved in administrative duties. This included two members of staff employed to reduce the adult to child ratio and if necessary to work with a child with additional needs, posts which are funded by the minister as part of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM).

Methodology

Tusla 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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Honeybee Room and the Hive. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16.

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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on 12 January 2026 in relation to non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 and Regulation 25. A response which adequately mitigated the risk identified was received on 13 January 2026 in relation to Regulation 23 and 14 January 2026 in relation to Regulation 25. Further details are available under Regulation 23 and Regulation 25.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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*

(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

- (1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present in the building when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service at 9.40am.
- (2) The files for 9 staff members including the registered provider were reviewed, references for 8 adults were reviewed and the following was recorded:
- (a) Eleven written references, eight of which were validated were available from past employers.
 - (b) One written validated reference was available from a reputable source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 9 adults including the registered provider. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) International Police vetting was not required for 6 adults following a review of their files and curriculum vitae.

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(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 9 staff members whose files were reviewed and who may work directly with the children in 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, Disability and Equality.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b) The registered provider had not ensured the following:

- Four written and validated references were not available for two adults employed in the service.
- There was no evidence of validation for three references.

(d) In respect of 3 adults, there were gaps in the recorded history of past employment and relevant experience available for inspection. Therefore, it was not possible to determine whether international police vetting was required in accordance with Regulation 9(2)(d).

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(2)(a)(b) Resent all requested references as attached documents.

(d) All CV's updated as requested for the 3 adults. Applications have been made for police vetting in relation to 3 adults.

Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b) All references are filed. Reference correspondence will be documented in the reference validation book to ensure all validations are documented in one file and kept with staff files.

(d) All international police checks have been applied for and are being processed in respect of 3 adults.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Four written and validated references for two adults.
- Validation of reference for one adult.
- Evidence of application for international police vetting for 3 adults.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances under Regulation 9 in relation to staff references have been addressed. On receipt of updated CV's for 3 adults it was ascertained that international police vetting was required for 3 adults. It is acknowledged that the registered provider has taken action and has submitted evidence of application of international police vetting for 3 adults. However, as international police vetting for 3 adults has not yet been submitted, this still remains outstanding. It is the

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responsibility of the registered provider to furnish international police vetting for 3 adults to the inspectorate when received.

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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of the inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.
- (2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In the Honeybee Room, there were 4 staff members working with 15 children aged 2 years and 8 months to 4 years and 6 months, one of whom was employed as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme.
- In the Hive, there were 4 staff members working with 17 children aged 3 years 10 months to 4 years 11 months, one of whom was employed as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme.

The registered provider was available to support staff across both care rooms as required.

- (8) (a) The registered provider ensured that there are 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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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:

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

Compliance Information

(j) Five records of administered medication were available for review. Details of the child, medication administered, dosage of medication, witness and parental acknowledgement were present on each document.

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-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a) Each child's learning and development and wellbeing was facilitated within the preschool in the following ways:

Basic needs:

- Mealtimes were observed to be a social and pleasant experience for the children. Staff sat with children at snack time and engaged in conversations with the children. Children's lunches and water bottles were brought from home and included rolls, crackers, yoghurts and fruit. Children's water bottles were accessible to the children and stored on a shelf in the rooms.
- Children's independence was supported. Children were free to choose materials independently from defined interest areas.
- The children attending the Hive Room were observed to be given the opportunity to spend time in the outdoor area during the inspection. The weather on the day of inspection was very cold, and the staff ensured that the children wore their hats and coats to ensure comfort and warmth on the day.
- Tissues were available both indoors and outdoors in instances where children required their noses wiped and cleaned.

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Supporting relationships:

- Staff demonstrated warm and caring interactions with the children and children were offered comfort and support when needed. There was a welcoming atmosphere in the service.
- Staff were responsive to children's cues and engaged positively, using distraction and redirection when children showed signs of emotional distress or dysregulation.
- The early years practitioners were observed interacting with children at their level and engaging in children's play.
- Identity and belonging were promoted in the service. In addition, each child had their own coat hook identified by children's names and pictures. Children's artwork was displayed in the care rooms.
- Staff discussed that they communicate with parents to share information using an online messaging group and by email.

Physical and material environment:

- The furniture provided in the care rooms was low level and appropriate to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in the care rooms.
- Toys and equipment were visible and accessible to children on low level shelving which facilitated children's independence in play. There were areas of interest in the service which provided opportunities for a variety of spontaneous play experiences and choice for children. This included book areas containing a child sized armchair for children to sit and relax and a selection of books which supported storytelling opportunities and children's language development. There were art areas providing a variety of art materials such as paper, pencils, crepe paper, scissors, lollipop sticks, shells, acorns, and paint easel with paint and aprons to support creative art and mark making for children. There was a 'Building Area' with a large rug and containing construction materials such as wooden blocks and wooden crates, high visibility jackets and hard hats. There were home corner areas with wooden kitchen with pots and pans and toy food, dolls and dress up clothes, shop area and real-life items such as bags, purses and weighing scales and large dolls house to support imaginative and dramatic play. An office area containing laptop, monitor, keyboard, telephone, pencils and copybooks supported children's early literacy and numeracy development and pretend play. There were tabletop materials such as jigsaws to support fine motor development and early literacy and numeracy learning. Sensory play for children was supported with provision of sensorial equipment to include light tables and bubble tubes in the rooms.

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- The outdoor area offered a change of environment for children. It was divided into different interest areas including a large area to enable children to ride bikes and run freely. It also provided a soft play area with artificial grass, an enclosed area to take shelter, a messy play area, a pirate ship to facilitate imaginary play, and large tyres to further facilitate gross motor movement.

Programme of Activities:

- Staff discussed that the curriculum is based on children's emerging interests with interest areas changed to reflect and support these interests. Children have had recent interests in letter writing and posting letters. Staff carry out planning which informs the curriculum and themes are based on 'Back together after the holidays', 'Winter is all around us', 'Sneezy the snowman song', books, letter recognition and writing.
- Children were facilitated to make their own choice in selecting play equipment and activities that they wished to engage with. Turn taking, sharing and helping each other was promoted, this was evidenced by children helping each other to put their aprons on, and taking turns unprompted with the outdoors bikes.
- Transitions were observed to be well managed; children were given verbal and visual cues including a sand timer to support them with the transitions. The children engaged well with tidying up, putting items away independently whilst singing the 'tidy up' song. Routines provided for predictability and comfort for young children.

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:

- Materials indoors and outdoors were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- The outdoor play area to the rear of the service was fully enclosed and secured with fencing.
- The area was mainly surfaced with tarmacadam and artificial grass. Outdoor areas that had not been risk assessed due to recent weather events were out of bounds to children.
- Grapes were observed to be cut in half, reducing the risk of choking to the child.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.

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- Children's lunches which were brought from home, were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes in both care rooms.
- Aprons and gloves were available and observed in use by staff when changing of a child was required.

Administration of Medication:

- There were health care plans available and displayed in the care room for children who required them.
- Medications were stored out of the reach of children.
- No child required medication to be administered on the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were unobstructed in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The main door and lobby door to the Hive building were unlocked when the inspectors arrived at the service at 9.40am. This increased the likelihood of a child leaving the service unsupervised and did not prevent unauthorised access to the service. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider.
2. A recently boiled kettle and unlidded cups containing hot drinks were present on the counter in the Honeybee Room while children were in attendance, posing a risk of scalding.
3. A low-hanging wire from a sensory light table was accessible to children, creating a potential safety risk.
4. Cleaning chemicals were stored in an unlocked press within the Honeybee Room. Although a child lock was fitted, it was not secured, posing a risk to children.
5. Blind cords were not secured or fixed in place. While the cords are currently out of children's reach, this does not fully mitigate the hazards associated with loose blind cords.

Infection Control:

Infection control measures were not always followed. The possible risk of the spread of infection was increased due to the following:

6. The water in the hot taps at two of the children's wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation in the Hive building were recorded as 6.6°C and 7.6°C by the inspector. Cold water does not support pre-school children to effectively wash their hands.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

General Safety:

1. Registered provider replied to Tusla within 24 hours regarding this issue. This was accepted by Tusla and is on file.
2. The kettle and hot drinks facilities have been removed from the care room and are accessible to staff in the office area of the building.
3. A main wire has been secured to the wall and light table leads connected to an extension cable and secured behind the radiator cover out of reach.
4. A notice has been put in place above the lock for staff to ensure this is locked at all times.
5. All blind cords have been fitted with a secure blind fitting to ensure they are secure and fixed in place.

Infection Control:

6. The committee have secured a plumber to rectify this issue. The works are promised to be completed on Friday 6th March. Manager will forward on a photo of the finished work.

Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. All staff have keys to ensure the doors are always locked when parents have dropped off the children and if they need to enter either building.
2. The kettle will remain out of the care room in the future.
3. Securing the wires and checking on a daily basis that they don't become loose.
4. Staff have been made aware to check the press each morning. Thus, ensuring it has been locked following the community centre cleaner accessing it.
5. Daily checks to ensure all fittings are intact.

Infection Control:

6. Assurance from the committee that this will not recur in the future, and a letter to ensure the flow of hot water to this area.

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Supporting documentation submitted

- Photographic evidence of the following was submitted: kettle in office, wire of light table secured, lock on press with cleaning chemicals, blind cords secured.
- Letter from Community Centre Committee.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances 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

- (2)(a) Adequately stocked first aid boxes were observed in the care rooms in the service.
- (b) First aid boxes were stored out of the reach of the children but available to staff as needed.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider did not ensure that an adequate number of staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children or Paediatric First Aid was available on the premises at all times throughout the opening hours of the service. A person trained in first aid is required on the premises at all times. An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

- (1) One member of staff has since updated her FAR training and 6 members have had updated Paediatric First Aid training. All certificates have been sent to inspectorate and acknowledged by same.

Preventive Action

- (1) A notice board to note when further training is required prior to it being out of date.

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Supporting documentation submitted

- FAR certificate for 1 staff.
- Paediatric First Aid training certificates for 6 staff.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances under Regulation 25 have been addressed.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- 1(a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last fire drill dated as having been carried out on the 17 December 2025.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record for firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment was last serviced in March 2025, and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 9 December 2025.
- (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in the service.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

(d) The registered provider did not ensure that the premises was being maintained in an appropriate condition as evidenced by the following:

- A broken grate was present in the centre of the outdoor play area creating a trip hazard.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(d) A new grate cover was inserted.

Preventive Action

(d) Each day the garden is checked prior to the children entering it. Inform the committee that all safety in the garden is paramount. All issues will be brought to their attention, and assurance has been given in relation to any further repairs required.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Photographic evidence of grate cover.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances under Regulation 29 have been addressed.