

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY028			
Name of Service:	Beez Kneez Childcare			
Address of Service:	Kilkerrin Road, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway			
Eircode:	F45 A262			
Name of Registered Provider:	Andrea Connolly			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	14/05/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	42	PM	26

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor),Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly
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

This private run service was established in 2007 in Glenamaddy, Co Galway. and operates as a Full Day Care Early Years' Service for children aged from 6 months to 12yrs. The service operates from 8 am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. It can cater for a maximum of 50 pre-school children.

It comprises of 3 playrooms, sanitary areas, and a kitchen area. It also has 2 dedicated sleep rooms. It has a covered outdoor play area at the rear of the building and a small sheltered outdoor space at the front of the premises. It also offers a service for school aged children.

Staffing

There are 9 adults working in the service which includes the registered provider. There are 7 childcare staff working directly with the children and 2 full time ancillary workers on the premises 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 area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 inspector wishes 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*

(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 registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

It was confirmed that there were 9 members of staff employed in the service.

All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 16 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 7 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the day of inspection there were 42 pre-school children, attending the morning session.

At 10.15 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

(2) Baby /Toddler Room there were 2 adults working with 4 children.

Junior Pre-school room, there were 2 adults working with 17 children.

Senior Pre-school room, there were 2 adults working with 21 children.

(8)(a)The staff roster of the service indicated that there were two adults on the premises at all times during the operational hours of the service.

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,

Compliance Information

Basic Needs

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the service collaborates with parents to support healthy eating within the service. Children ate their lunches and snacks in their playrooms. The service had a cook and the home cooked meals on the day of inspection appeared appetising and healthy. The dinner on the day consisted of pasta bolognaise for the older children and meat, potatoes and carrots for the younger children and milk or water to drink .The snacks were provided by the parents and consisted of sandwiches, rolls, fruit or yogurt.
- The children aged between 1 and 2 years of age were put down to sleep in their dedicated cot room, which was adjacent to their playrooms. On the day of inspection, a staff member stayed with the children until they were settled and then a staff member physically checked the children every 10 minutes and recorded the temperature of the room, colour and position of the child as they slept.
- Older children could access the toilets on their own or they asked the staff member for assistance.
- Each group of children got to spend time in their allocated outdoor play areas each day. On the day of the inspection, all of the children present spend the majority of the session in the outdoor areas. The children were observed happily playing in the different outdoor areas throughout the session. The younger children got to spend time in the outdoor space ,each day.
- Children wash their hands before snack time and after outdoor play and this activity was observed on numerous occasions throughout the inspection.

Supporting relationships :

- The atmosphere between the children and the adults was calm and unhurried throughout the inspection.
- Staff provided parents with the opportunity to share information about the children's experiences .The service had a positive relationship with the parent community, by providing an opportunity for the

parents to be involved with service activities. Photographs of these activities were displayed around the service and a number of the children spoke and described these activities throughout the session.

- Adults sat at the tables and on the floor with the children when helping with jigsaws and various other play activities. The level of interaction and positive engagement of the children were positive, the children were heard laughing, talking ,asking questions and generally having a good experience throughout the days of inspection.