

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: 31/07/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	20
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:

Early Years Inspectorate,
Quality and Regulation Directorate,
Clinical & Administration Building,
Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor),
Merlin Park Hospital,
Galway.

Inspection undertaken by: E. Friel and S. Meehan.

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

Description of service

This privately owned pre-school is in the rural town of Glenamaddy in northeast county Galway. The service offers both an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care and sessional care programme from 09:00 to 12:00 and a full day care service from 07:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. While registered for children aged between 0 and 6 years of age, children currently attending are aged from 1 – 6 years. The service comprises of 3 care rooms, 2 dedicated sleep rooms, a kitchen where hot lunches are prepared, adult and children’s sanitary areas and 2 nappy changing areas. Outdoor play areas are located at the front and rear of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider is the person in charge and there is a named designated deputy. There are a total of 10 adults working on the premises which includes the registered provider and a cook. The adults working directly with the children hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education between a Level 5 and a level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15.

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, 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,*

(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 ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise.
 - (b) The staff roster indicated that both the designated person in charge and deputy were on the premises while the pre-school children were present.
 - (c) A pictographic management structure was available in the reception area of the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) All 10 adult recruitment files were reviewed:
- (a) There were 16 of the required 20 written and validated references from previous employers.
 - (b) The remaining 4 validated references were from sources other than past employers.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for all 10 adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting time frames as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years. Please refer to the information outlining under regulation 23 of this report.
 - (d) International police vetting was available for 1 adult working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than 6 months.
- (4) There was evidence that 9 adults who required a childcare qualification had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to 6 on the National Framework of qualifications or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

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) Documentary evidence, in the form of attendance records and staff rosters, indicated that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (2) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. There were 8 adults working directly and caring for 24 pre-school children in the morning and 8 adults working directly with 20 preschool children in the afternoon. The 8 adults included the registered provider and a cook.
- (8)
- (a) The staff roster indicated that 2 adults were on the premises while the pre-school children were on the premises.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*

- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

Compliance Information

(15)(1)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i).

A sample of 22 of the 88 children's records were reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent and accurate.

The 22 sampled records of children contained the following:

- The name and date of birth of the child.
 - The date on which the child first attended the service.
 - The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).
 - The name and address of the child's parent or guardian and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.
 - Written authorisation/permissions for collecting the child.
 - Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.
 - The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
 - A record of any immunisations the child has had.
 - Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was an emergency.
- (4) The registered provider advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that all relevant children's records were kept for two years from the date a child ceases 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, and

Compliance Information

Basic needs:

- Children were observed eating healthy, nutritious food at regular intervals throughout the day. Staff stated breakfast of oat and wheat cereals, toast, water and milk were available for children who arrived from 07.00 onwards. Mid-morning snack, supplied by the parents/guardians, was served between 09:30 and 10:00. A hot lunch of chicken, potatoes, broccoli and gravy of an appropriate consistency was served at 12.05 in the Baby/Toddler care room. Children in the service were observed eating yogurts, filled sandwiches, bananas, tangerines and rice cakes between 14:30 and 15:00. Fresh fruit was available at all times.
- The service was noted to support the parents/guardians choices regarding the feeding of children, including bottle feeding.
- Age and stage appropriate water containers, which were readily accessible for children who were thirsty, were available in both indoor and outdoor play areas. Babies/Toddlers were observed drinking from two handled beakers and older children from individual water bottles.
- Bibs were in use in the Baby/Toddler room for children who required them to protect their clothing.
- Children were escorted to the adjacent toilet by adults in the Pre-school room who remained nearby to help, if required. Step-ups were available for those children who required additional help to reach the wash hand basins.
- Nappy changing was carried out regularly and as required. The inspector observed that this was handled in a positive and sensitive manner with the staff member using the opportunity for one-to-one interactions with the children.
- The day of inspection was hot and sunny; outdoor play areas with overhead shelter were observed in use to protect the children from exposure to the sun while playing outdoors.
- The sleep needs of the Babies/Toddlers were met, and this was noted by the inspectors on the day with children observed sleeping at different intervals. Examples included two children asleep in cots at 11:00 in

the morning in sleep room 2 where there were three cots available and 3 children asleep in sleep room 1 at 13:54. In addition, 6 stackable beds with individual bed linen were also available, if required in a separate room off sleep room 2.

- Rest areas, with appropriate soft furnishings including vinyl sofas and cushions, were available in each area, both indoors and outdoors, for the children to sit away from noisy activities.

Supporting children's relationship:

- The adults in the service were observed engaging children in conversation throughout the day in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. They were observed listening to the children and using strategies to extend the children's thinking, learning and behaviour. Examples included open questioning, explaining, modelling, providing feedback and gentle reminders with regards to sharing and turn taking.
- Interactions between the adults and children were warm, caring and sensitive. Adults in the Baby/Toddler were observed communicating positively with the younger age group offering reassurance by sitting near them on the floor and offering comfort when they became upset. While adults in the outdoor play area were observed actively engaging in pretend and construction play where they were heard being supportive and encouraging with the children during play.
- A number of methods of communicating with parents/guardians were stated as being in use including verbally at drop off and collection, by phone, on a social media platform and in individually written communication books in use in the Baby/Toddler room. Examples of these were furnished to the inspector and included each child's sleeping, eating and toileting activities daily.

Physical and material environment:

- A comfortable adult armchair and sofa were observed in use in the Baby/Toddler care room for the feeding of children. Staff were also observed sitting comforting children who were upset.
- Children's individual photographs in the Baby/Toddler care room were thoughtfully presented in a visually appealing way, being placed at the children's level where they were easily seen and accessible.
- The learning environments in each care room and in the outdoor areas were set up with clearly organised materials, storage and labelled resources in baskets/trays which were placed within easy reach of the children. These provided playful opportunities to enhance the learning needs of all children across all developmental areas.

- The inspectors observed that the service provided a learning environment that valued the inclusion of all children. Examples included sign language in use in the service promoting opportunities for all children to communicate from the use of visual materials and physical examples. Management stated that adults had trained in the manual communication system to support the children.
- Age and stage appropriate tables and chairs were available in both the indoor and outdoor environments. Children in the Baby/Toddler room had access to highchairs with footrests and small wooden chairs on the floor where the children's feet were observed to be placed on the floor. Older children had access to suitable tables and chairs throughout the service placed strategically for group and individual use.

Planning of activities:

- Ongoing observations of the children demonstrating their learning and development, linked to both the national curriculum and quality frameworks, were furnished to the inspector. These included details of the children's extended learning and included examples of artwork related to the curriculum themes.
- Children's language development was supported through one to one, group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed throughout the day. Children in the Pre-school room were heard engaging with adults in conversation identifying colours while painting and playing a game of "I spy". Adults in the Baby/Toddler care room were heard repeating and emphasising words helping the children to learn and master new language skills.

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:

- All doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from leaving the service unsupervised.
- Windows throughout the service were fitted with restrictors ensuring the safety of the children.
- The six highchairs in use in the Baby/Toddler room were fitted with appropriate harnesses ensuring the safety of the children while eating.
- All toys in use in the indoor and outdoor play areas were noted to be in good condition and well maintained.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.

- Blind cords in the designated sleep rooms were secured with hooks out of reach of the children.
- The rear outdoor play areas were clearly divided with barriers providing a safe environment for play for the younger pre-school children and older school age children observed playing outdoors.
- The perimeter of the outdoor play areas at the rear of the service were secured with high concrete walls and a wooden gate, ensuring that children could not leave the area unsupervised or that unauthorised adults could not enter.

Infection Control:

- Wash hand basins in use by the adults and children were supplied with thermostatically controlled hot water, 39°C to 40.5°C, dispensing paper towels and dispensing soap. Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of paper waste.
- Nappy changing in the Baby/Toddler changing areas was observed to be carried out in line with the service's nappy changing policy. The adult was observed wearing a single use apron and gloves, sanitising the area after use and handwashing after nappy changing.
- Soiled nappies were disposed of in individual nappy sacks which were placed in a nearby pedal operated, sealed, lidded and lined nappy bin.
- Hygienic storage of children's milk bottles was provided in the fridge in the kitchen, preventing the milk from spoiling.
- The service was observed to be clean and well organised. Up to date cleaning checklists were available and furnished to the inspectors.
- A steriliser and individually labelled soother containers were available for maintaining the hygienic use of children's soothers.
- Children's belongings were stored on hooks off the floor areas.

Administration of Medication:

- Temperature reducing medication was available in the event of an emergency. This was stored on a high shelf, out of reach of the children, in the kitchen and the expiry date was noted as 08/2027.

Safe Sleep:

- Physical sleep records, from both sleep rooms, were furnished to the inspector which evidenced that sleep checks were recorded every 10 minutes in which the children's position, pallor, breathing and room temperature were recorded in line with the service's safe sleep policy.
- Sleep room temperatures in the 2 designated sleep rooms, where all children were aged over 12 months, were recorded between 21.3°C and 21.9°C, within the required 18°C and 22°C.

- Cots were placed at least 50 centimetres apart in each of the designated sleep rooms.

Fire Safety:

- Up to date fire extinguishers were secured by brackets on the walls of the service.
- Fire assembly points were visible in the outside areas.
- Fire doors were unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Garda vetting was available for the 10 adults; however, 1 adult vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous 3 years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting' posing a potential risk for children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- Garda vetting renewal was submitted and a new vetting disclosure is stored on file for the adult for whom it was not dated within 3 years. Management will submit renewal of garda vetting disclosures 2 months in advance to ensure they are received before the expiry of the existing disclosure.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- A copy of the garda vetting disclosure for the adult for whom vetting had expired was received in the office of the inspectorate. The statement from the registered provider has been accepted.

Summary Comment

The action taken by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23.

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 a person trained in first aid responder for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Five adults had current training in first aid response for children.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid boxes were stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions in the playrooms, outdoor play area and in the kitchen.
 - (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped with all contents within expiry dates and were available while the children were attending the pre-school service.

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.
- (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 written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service the last fire drill was conducted on the 28 July 2025.
 - (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment in the premises and was serviced on 01 July 2025.
Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of fire and smoke alarms in the premises with the annual check dated the 01 July 2025.
- (4) Notices were displayed in each room within the service of the fire evacuation procedures to be followed in the

event of an emergency in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for 50 pre-school children. The insurance policy for the full day care service is valid until the 27 March 2026.