

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY036		
Name of Service:	Bo-Peep Daycare		
Address of Service:	Bolisheen, Corrandulla, Co. Galway.		
Eircode:	H91 HC6N		
Name of Registered Provider:	Majella Murphy		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	09/08/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM 15
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.		
Inspection undertaken by:	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
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Description of service

This privately owned preschool service is located to at the rear of the registered providers home, in Bolisheen near Corrandulla, county Galway. The full day care service caters for children aged between 0 years and 6 years, from Monday to Friday between 7:45 am and 6 pm. This service offers the option of part time care service, an (ECCE) Early Childhood Care and Education and sessional care programme from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. A school aged service is also offered in the service.

The preschool has 3 preschool rooms namely the Baby and Wobbler room, Playroom 1 and Playroom 3. The service has a designated sleep room adjacent to the Baby and Wobbler room with 4 cots and sanitary accommodation with a nappy changing area. Stackable beds are available for older children requiring sleep. Quiet rest areas are available in each of the playrooms for children to rest and relax. The pre-school children have access to an outdoor play area to the front of the premises for play and exploration.

Staffing

There are a total of 9 adults working directly with preschool children in the service which includes the registered provider and there is also a chef. There was documentary evidence that adults have on-going training and education.

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 an unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child and premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15,19, 25, 28 and 30. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 inspector wishes 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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

On the day of inspection, the 11 staff files were reviewed.

- (2)(a) & (b) Twenty-two of the written validated references on file, in respect of the 11 staff were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 11 staff.

- (d) Documentary evidence indicated 2 adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years had police vetting's and were available for inspection.
- (4) Nine staff working directly with the children which includes the registered provider had evidence of a minimum of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (d) Documentary evidence indicated 2 adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years did not have police vetting's on file.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider responded to say that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(d) All vetting procedures will be carried out in future prior to adults working directly with children.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)(d) The registered provider submitted the two outstanding police vetting for the 2 adults.

Summary Comment

The Early Years Inspector reviewed the evidence submitted and has deemed that it has met the requirements of this part of the Regulation.

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 morning and afternoon of the inspection there were 15 pre-school children present with 6 adults which included the manager working directly with, caring, and supervising these children.
In addition, there was a school aged adult working directly with 5 school aged children.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was complied with in the service for the respective age group in a full day care service.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were on the premises during the operation of the preschool service.

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

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

There was a total of 32 children's records and a sample of 8 children's records were reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The 8 random records of children contain 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 / is an emergency.
- (4) The registered provider advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that all relevant children’s records were kept for 2 years from the date a child stops attending 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

(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

19 (1)(a)(b)

BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. The children sat together and ate their snacks provided by their parents and guardians.
The snacks observed was healthy and nutritious consisted of a selection of sandwiches, wraps, ham, rice cakes, yogurts, crackers and various pieces of fruit. The main hot meal of the day was chicken curry with rice.
- The children were given plenty of time to enjoy their snack in a relaxed and unhurried environment. The adults sat and engaged with children during snack and meal-times.
- Children had access to their own individually labelled water containers in a designated area in each of the playrooms and while playing in the outdoor area.

- The children had the opportunity to use crockery and plates during their snack time and at dinner time.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence. All the children were toilet trained and either toileted independently or with some assistance as required.
- Children who were in nappies had them changed throughout the day as required by adults.
- All playrooms had appropriate soft seat for children to relax and rest during the day.
- There was a designated sleep room for children under 2 years of age, off the baby room with four cots.
- The children had the opportunity to select which activities they choose to engage in. Children could move about freely, exploring their environment, and improving their emerging skills such as coordination and balance. The theme of the week was summer time and at the beach.
- All children had access to the outdoor play area which provided a variety of play equipment for children to enjoy. When outside, the children were appropriately dressed wearing sun hats and it was observed on the day that sun cream which was individually labelled was applied to each child prior to playing outside.

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. Two adults had up to date first aid responder training and six adults had current training in first aid for children.
- (2)(a) There was two first aid boxes with the content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service was adequately insured for up to a maximum of 30 full day care children and was valid until the 27/03/2024.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) and (2)

- The Baby and Wobbler room measured at 24 square meters.
- Adequate floor space is provided in the playroom for the free movement of children to work and play.
- The required floor space of 1.818 square meters is applied for the duration of a sessional service.
- The required floor space of 2.35sq. meters is applied for the duration of a part-time and full-time service, for children age range 2-3 years of age.
- The required floor space of 2.3 sq. meters is applied for the duration of a part-time and full-time service, for children age range 3-6years of age.
- The sleep room off the Baby and Wobbler room measured 12 square meters.