

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY036
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Name of Service:	Bo-Peep Daycare
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Address of Service:	Bolisheen, Corrandulla, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 HC6N
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Name of Registered Provider:	Majella Murphy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/11/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM	22
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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 5:30 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. 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

The registered provider is on the premises daily and 2 deputy managers are also working in the service. There are a total of 9 adults working directly with children which includes a chef and the registered provider. There are 8 adults who have an award in early childhood education at least to a minimum of a level 5 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.

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*

(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 named designated person in charge during the inspection. There were 2 named persons who could deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- A total of eleven adult files were reviewed which included 2 adults that worked in the school aged service and registered provider:
- (2)(a) There were twenty written, validated references from past employers available in respect of the adults working in the service.
- (b) There were 2 validated references on file in respect of the eleven adults were from a source other than the previous past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the eleven adults. This was in adhere with the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Five staff had worked outside the jurisdiction, for six months or more, while over the age of 18 years of age, and had the required police vetting for that jurisdiction.
- (4) The registered provider ensured that the eight adults working directly with children had a major award of a minimum of FETAC level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the person in charge ensured that the adult child ratios were adhered to.
- (2) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records indicated that the adult child ratios were maintained.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 27 pre-school children aged between 1 to 5 years.

- 1 child was aged 1 to 2 years,
- 7 children were aged 2 to 3 years,
- 5 children were aged 3 to 4 years.
- 14 children were aged 4 to 5 years.

There were 8 adults directly caring for these children. There was a designated chef who prepared, cooked, and served the main meals.

In the afternoon, there were 22 pre-school children aged between 1 to 5 years.

- 1 children were aged 1 to 2 years,
- 5 children were aged 2 to 3 years.
- 8 children were aged 3 to 4 years.
- 8 children were aged 4 to 5 years.

There were 7 adults caring for these children.

- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were two adults on the premises while the pre-school was operating

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

19 (1)(a)

- The service had a healthy eating policy and a 3-week menu plan.
- The parents provided the morning snack which consisted of sandwiches, fruit, crackers and cheese.
- The hot meal of the day was chicken pasta with vegetables, adults sat and chatted to children during the meal.
- Crockery and plates were provided for children as snack and mealtimes.
- Water was readily available for children in each of the playrooms and each of their water containers were labelled with their name.
- Children were observed washing their hands at appropriate times throughout the day for e.g. before mealtimes, after toileting and outdoor play.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- Children who were toilet trained used the toilet independently and were supported if required throughout the day.
- Adults pick up on younger children's cues for nappy changing and nappies were changed in a timely manner by adults.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults. Individual care plans were available if required, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement, inclusion and encouragement.
- Children were observed at table top activities, mealtimes, playing in the clearly defined interest areas, in the outdoor play area.
- The theme of the week was 'Farming' and children were observed playing with farm animals, painting their favourite animal on the farm and playing with farm sets.
- Adults engaged in a positive , supportive way with children throughout the day.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had in date adequate insurance for a 30 preschool children on a full day care basis which is valid to 27/03/2025.