

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY050			
Name of Service:	Busy Bees Preschool			
Address of Service:	42 Riverwalk, Church Street, Gort, Co. Galway			
Eircode:	H91 PW21			
Name of Registered Provider:	Olive Coleman			
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	21/03/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	30	PM	15
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	TUSLA - Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green2 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

The service was first notified as a privately owned sessional service in 2001 and is in a private housing development in the town of Gort, county Galway. The service operates a sessional service for pre-school children aged between 2 years to 6 years of age. The service offers an Early Childhood Care and Education, sessional care programme from 9 am to 12 pm, Monday to Friday. The service also operates a part-time day-care service from 9 am to 2 pm, Monday to Friday. There are 4 playrooms, office, kitchen and sanitary facilities. The service has direct access to the outdoor play area at the rear of the service. The service proposes to provide a hot meal daily.

Staffing

The registered provider is on the premises daily. There is a named person in charge and a named designated deputy. All 5 adults hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at 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.

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

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 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*
- (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.*

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 registered provider was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, at all times when the pre-school children were present.
- (c) Staff rosters, policies and signage evidence indicated that there was a clear management structure in the service, which identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.
- All 5 adult files were reviewed including the registered provider.
- (2)(a) &(b) Ten of the validated references on file in respect of 5 adults were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 5 adults member.
- (d) Documentary evidence indicated that no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years and therefore did not require police vetting.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) On the morning of the inspection, there were thirty preschool children present with 4 adults working directly with, caring and supervising these children.
- In the afternoon, of the inspection, there were fifteen children present being cared for by 4 adults.
- (2) The adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the day.

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

19 (1) (a)

BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the food observed was healthy and nutritious. At 11 pm, the snacks provided by parent and guardians consisted of a selection of sandwiches, bread, bread rolls, wraps, cheese, ham, yogurts, crackers, and various pieces of fruit including chopped grapes, strawberries and bananas. The hot meal of the day was an eastern spice chicken breast in a mild coconut sauce with chickpeas and served with rice.

- The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their snack in a relaxed and unhurried manner. Crockery and plates were given to children during snack times, laid out on low tables in the outdoor play area.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence.
- Each child's privacy and dignity were preserved, while they were either toileted independently or with some assistance as required.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couches, in a designated rest and relaxation area, in the playrooms. Stackable beds were available for children attending on a part-time day-care basis.
- On the day of inspection, the children played in the outdoor area.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- A key person system was in place for each child to support their development and to inform curriculum planning. The role of the key person was to liaise with parents and guardians.
- On speaking with staff, the inspector was informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child's experiences in the pre-school including the child's likes, interests, preferences, and play activities engaged in. This information was provided at collection and drop off times, via text messages and by phone calls.
- Each child had a learning journal and scrapbook identifying their likes preferences and showing their art and craft work.
- The staff were observed to be caring and supportive in their interactions with the children. During observed interactions, the staff demonstrated that they knew the children well, recognising and valuing their individual interests, needs and learning. The staff were observed to be interested in the children, spoke in low tones, listened to them, and responded to their requests. The staff interacted in a positive way with the children e.g., they sat at children's level, maintained good eye contact, showed empathy and a good understanding of each child.
- Staff were observed helping children find solutions, supporting them and talking to children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling, commentating, extending a child's activities, and initiating games and activities.

- The programme of care was flexible and guided by the children’s choices. Children were supported by the staff during periods of individual and group-based activities, the staff sensitively supervised and intervened when necessary.
- The children were observed at imaginative play, sand play, action songs, drawing, running, dancing to music, preparing for daffodil day and tabletop activities.

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) There was 1 first aid box with the content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position in the service office.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) While it is acknowledged that the service had staff trained in first aid the service provided no evidence that a person trained in first aid responder for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service and on the roster.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider responded to say that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) A staff member has been booked on a first aid responder course.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1) We will in future ensure that a first aid responder is rostered during the operation of the service.

Summary Comment

It is acknowledged that a booking reference for training was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate, but this non-compliance remains outstanding as a copy of the first aid responder cert was not submitted to the inspectorate.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had part time day care insurance for up to 33 preschool children and was valid until the 27/03/2024.