

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY077			
Name of Service:	Bee Happy Childcare			
Address of Service:	55 Clochran, Kilcloghans, Tuam, Co. Galway			
Eircode:	H54 WK24			
Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Geoghegan			
Service type:	Full Day			
Date of Inspection:	12/03/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM	16
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			

Description of service

This is a privately owned childcare service, that caters for children from 2 years to 6 years of age. It operates Monday to Friday from 8am to 6.00pm. The service is in a purpose-built building in a residential area on the outskirts of Tuam, county Galway. There are three playrooms (two upstairs, one downstairs), with adult and children's sanitary areas and a designated kitchen. The children had access to a secure outdoor play area at the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were seven adults present on the day of inspection; of these six were working directly with the children and there was a cook preparing the meals. The registered provider and the person in charge were also 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 wish 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 had two staff members assigned as the designated persons in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider and one of the designated persons in charge were on the premises and facilitated the inspection.
- Following a review of the service files and discussion with the service manager it was confirmed that there were nine staff members employed in the service. These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) All of the 18 references required were sourced from past employers and were validated.
- (b) Not applicable as all of the required references were sourced from past employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for nine staff. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) A police vetting disclosure was available for the one adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months.
- (4) All adults working directly with children have obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education from a level 5 to a level 8 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.*

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, there were 27 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 16 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.
- (2) At 10.00 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation:
 - Toddler room, there was 1 adult caring for 4 children aged between 2 and 3 years.
 - Pre-school room, Junior there was 1 adult caring for 7 children aged over 3 years.
 - Senior pre-school playroom, there were 2 adults caring for 16 children aged over 4 years.

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.

- Each child was given enough time to eat their lunch. The children tidy away their lunch boxes and returned their bags to the hall way when they had finished their meals. The children were then free to go to the library area where they could relax and look at the range of story books that were available to them.
- Older children were independent with their toileting needs and they had unrestricted access to the toilet that was located adjacent to the large playroom. Assistance was offered to the children when required.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunch and after toileting.
- The children had access to a relaxation area and soft seating in the playrooms. Children attending on a full day care basis had access to stackable beds and bed linen should they required sleep and rest.
- The staff members were observed to deal with disagreement between the children in a sensitive and calm manner. This was observed during the session, when two children had an issue with sharing a handmade "hungry caterpillar toy". One child became very upset and the staff spoke to the children involved and the issue was resolved.

- The children were encouraged to be independent in caring for themselves. The children were encouraged to put on their jackets, the staff members helped but let the children do as much as they could prior to intervening.
- The children got to use the outdoor play area throughout the session. The children had suitable outdoor footwear and jackets to wear in bad weather. This was observed on the day when children wore their jackets when they were playing in the outdoor area; here they were observed running and playing in the outdoor space, using a selection of ride on toys and climbing on the play equipment. The children appeared happy and content exploring the different areas of the space, this was evident from their laughter while playing.