

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

tTUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KK006		
Name of Service:	Bambinos Creche		
Address of Service:	10/11 Lintown Way, Johnswell Road, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny		
Eircode:	R95 YY33		
Name of Registered Provider:	Gillian Watkins Dunne		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	13/12/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM 18
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child & Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Norma Thornton		
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

Bambinos Creche is a registered full day care service operating from an end of terrace residence, located in Kilkenny city. Childcare services provided included a full day care, part-time and an early childhood care and education (ECCE) session. The service is open from 08:00 to 17:30 hours Monday to Friday. There are two preschool classrooms, the toddler's year 1 and year 2 classrooms located on the ground floor and two ECCE preschool classrooms located on the first floor.

The service also contains two designated sleep rooms and an outdoor play area at the back of the building.

Staffing

There were six staff members employed in the service. The five staff members, including the registered provider, who, as part of their role in the service worked directly with the children, all held at least a Level 5 ranging to Level 7 qualification in early childhood care and education on the national Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) framework. The sixth staff member was employed in the kitchen to cook the meals daily.

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

The inspection focused on assessment of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 15, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 28.

A sampling process was used under regulations 10 and 15. The scope of the inspection included the outdoor area and the four classrooms in use on the day of inspection.

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 in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- (b) The staff roster demonstrated that the designated person in charge or a named deputy designated person in charge, was always onsite while the service was in operation.
- (c) A clear outline of the management of the structure was demonstrated in the service, identifying the lines of authority, accountability, the roles, and responsibilities of individual staff members in the service.
- (2) Staff files for six staff members employed in the service were reviewed by the inspector.
- (a)(b) Two validated references were available on file for each of the six staff members, from either a past employer or from a reputable source.
- (c) Garda vetting certificates were available on file, for each staff member. The registered provider demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable as no staff member employed in the service had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.
- (4) Certificates of qualifications were available for inspection, for each of the five staff members, who as part of their role in the service, were working directly with the children, demonstrating that each staff member held at least a minimum Level 5 to Level 8 qualification in early childhood care and education on the national QQI framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

On review of the service's policies and staff files, the inspector was assured that the registered provider ensured that all required documents specified in Schedule 5, were available in the service and were communicated to the staff as part of their induction process, on commencing employment in the service and revised with the staff annually.

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) There were always, during the inspection, an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children. An additional staff member was supernumerary and available to provide support in any of the four classrooms in operation and to provide relief for staff breaks.
- (2) The following adult to child ratios were observed in each of the four classrooms on the morning and afternoon of the inspection.
- In Toddler room 1, there were 2 staff members directly caring for 5 children aged 1 to 2 years throughout the inspection.
- In Toddler room 2, there was 1 staff member caring for 5 children aged 2 years to 2 years and 8 months throughout the inspection.
- In Preschool room 1, there was 1 staff member directly caring for 8 children aged 3 to 4 years between the hours of 09:00 to 12:00 for the ECCE session.
- In Preschool room 2, there were 9 children aged 4 to 5 years directly cared for by 1 staff member, throughout the ECCE session and in the afternoon 8 children aged 3 to 5 years remained in the Preschool room 2 for a part-time or full day care service with one staff member.
- (8)(a) On review of the staff roster and in discussion with the staff the inspector was assured that there were always at least 2 adults on the premises while children were in attendance in the 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.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) to (i) On review of a sample of 12 records of pre-school children, the inspector observed that records of the particulars (a) to (i) were maintained for each preschool child.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The inspector observed that there were adequate and suitable facilities provided in the service for the four groups of children in each of the four classrooms. Each classroom had been carefully planned with safe, adequate and appropriate interest areas and play materials for the children in attendance. Interest areas such as kitchen/home areas, construction areas and soft play areas were created for the younger children.

Low level shelving in the toddlers' rooms stored easily accessible baskets of small world figurines and treasure baskets for the children to explore. Sensory toys and manipulative and connective materials such as peg boards and blocks stimulated their learning.

In the older preschool classrooms, upstairs, children played imaginatively in the created interest areas, playing house, cooking, constructing materials and painting and creating.

In all four classrooms, staff had visually labelled storage containers, so children knew exactly where to locate their play materials of choice.

(b) Two sleep rooms provided an adequate number of standard cots for children under two years of age to sleep comfortably in a quiet and comfortable environment. Sleep mats were available for any child over two years of age who wished to rest or take a nap in a quiet area of the classroom.

(3) A secured outdoor play area was provided at the back of the building, which contained two large, covered sections so that children could access the outdoor area during all-weather/ Interest areas and an outdoor classroom had been created , with dividers also available to ensure the smaller children had a safe designated area to ride their miniature vehicles or push their prams while outside.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

There was a designated kitchen staff to prepare snacks and hot meals daily. In each of the classrooms the inspector observed that children had access to drinking water, in their own individual beakers of cups or provided with fresh drinking water from a jug by the staff caring for them.

Children coming to the service early in the morning at 08:00 hours were provided with cereal milk and toast if they had not had breakfast at home. At snack time at 10:00 hours, the older children in the preschool classrooms brought snacks from home, of which the healthy contents observed by the inspector, were in line with the service's healthy eating policy. The children in the Toddler rooms were provided with banana and orange pieces with yogurt at snack time, which they enjoyed in the adjoining dining area to the kitchen. The staff were overheard asking the children if they had enough to eat, if they cleared their bowl or plates and children were observed by the inspector to answer "Yes, I have enough, thank you" or "I'd like some more please".

There was always a supply of extra food available for children if they requested more, forgot their snack or wanted an alternative.

A four-week menu plan was available and displayed for parents to see, on the parents' noticeboard in the entrance hall. On the day of inspection, spaghetti bolognese was cooked in the kitchen, with a homemade tomato sauce composed of a lot of hidden vegetables, carrots, peas and sweetcorn with the tomato base and beef mince.

Snack in the afternoon consisted of a homemade fruit scone and jam. At teatime children were served homemade sausage rolls and beans.

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:

The main entrance to the service was secured with a call bell system. Only authorised staff working in the service could permit access at the main entrance to persons entering the building. This helped ensure that no unauthorised person could enter the building and prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised. The outdoor play area was secured with a high block wall, surrounding the perimeter of the play area.

A daily risk assessment of the outdoor play area was observed to be carried out and records demonstrated that this was recorded daily.

The service cleaning materials and equipment were stored appropriately in a secure storage area inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

The service had appropriate toilet and nappy changing facilities provided to meet the numbers and needs of the children in each classroom. All sanitary facilities contained handwash basins, supplied with liquid hand soap and paper towelling, which the children could easily access and use.

Children were observed to use the toilet and hand washing facilities with ease, while staff were observed to support and prompt the children to wash their hands correctly after using the toilet, after messy and outdoor play and before snack and mealtimes. Staff were observed to carry out nappy changing procedures in line with the service's nappy changing policy and in adherence with the service's hand washing and infection control policy.

Administration of Medication:

There was an adequate administration of medication policy in place in the service if a child required administration of an anti-febrile medication or if a child centred medication plan was required for the administration of a specific medication in the event of an emergency.

On review of past administration of medication forms, the inspector observed that procedures for administration of medications were carried out and recorded in line with the service's administration of medication policy.

Safe Sleep:

There were two sleep rooms available in the service containing a total of six standard cots, three in each sleep room. Staff were observed to ensure that the temperature of the sleep room was maintained within the recommended range of 16 to 20 °C.

Staff were observed to physically check and record the room temperature and sleeping children's physical checks, which included colour, breathing and sleep position every 10 minutes.

Outing:

The service had an adequate outings policy in place, to implement when taking children on an outing away from the service. The policy detailed the preparation, risk assessment and communication with parents/guardians prior to the outing, the precautions, and procedures to be taken prior to and during the outing and the procedures to be carried out in the event of an emergency.

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) There were four staff members employed in the service with current certification in the required first aid responder (FAR) training for children. At all times while the service was operating, the roster demonstrated that an adequate number of staff members with FAR training were present.
- (2) (a)(b) A first aid box was available and easily accessed by staff on a shelf in the kitchen. A record demonstrated that its contents were checked monthly and replaced if necessary.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
 - (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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) There was a written record of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 14 October 2024.
- (b) The registered provider maintained a record of the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. New fire-fighting equipment had been installed in September 2024 and the maintenance check for the smoke alarm system was recorded as having taken place on 14 July 2024.

(4) The registered provider ensured that a fire procedure notice was clearly displayed in the main hall, for all authorised persons entering the building to see.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was a current insurance certificate for the service displayed on a notice board in the main hall. The insurance certificate detailed insurance cover for a full day care service provision for a maximum of 30 early years children and covered the period from 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.