

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY024
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Buddies Crèche & Childcare Facility
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Benmore, Ballyduff, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 A7VC
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Anthony O'Carroll
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	25/07/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	25	PM	11
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Buddies Creche & Childcare Facility is a community based early years service that is registered to provide sessional, part-time and full day care to children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service operates between the hours of 7:30 am and 6 pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The service consists of 4 playrooms located on the ground floor of Buddies Family & Community Resource centre. There is a designated enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the building that is available each day to the children attending.

### Staffing

There are 13 adults employed in the service of whom 12 are qualified to work directly with the children. The registered provider does not work with the children.

### 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 inspections 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 person in charge, the deputy in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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

(2) The person in charge confirmed that 6 adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 11/08/2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to these 6 adults were reviewed.

- (a) 8 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
- (b) 4 written validated references were on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for each of the 6 adults.
- (d) Not applicable as the 6 adults in question did not reside outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5 and above.

### 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) The registered provider did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(2) The 4 playrooms were in operation on the day of the inspection.

#### Baby room

There was 1 staff member caring for 5 children aged between 1 and 2 years, 1 child attending a part time basis and 4 children attending on a full day care basis.

### Creche room

There were 2 staff caring for 12 children aged between 2 years and 3 years, 2 children attending on a part-time basis and 3 children were attending on a full day care basis.

### Junior pre-school room

There were 2 staff caring for 7 children aged between 3 years and 4 years, 5 attending on a part-time basis and 2 children attending on a full day care basis.

### Senior pre-school room

There were 2 staff caring for 8 children aged between 3 years and 8 years, 5 children aged between 3 years and 5 years attending on a part-time and full day care basis and 3 school aged children attending on a part-time basis.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(a) The registered provider did ensure that 2 adults are on the premises during the hours of operation

## 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 sample of 12 records were inspected and found to have the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive

## 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

- The children attending had access to their labelled water bottles throughout the session both indoors and outdoors.
- The parents of the children attending provided the food consumed on the premises for the some of the mealtimes with the service providing food for breakfast, some of the snacks and for the main meal of the day cooked that is cooked each day in the kitchen in the family resource centre.
- There is a designated staff member employed to work in the kitchen in the early years' service, who prepares, portions and re-heats the food as is required. The meals are taken to each of the playrooms and served by the staff members.
- The food observed on inspection included toast, ham, sandwiches, brown bread, crackers, grated cheese, bananas, raspberries, strawberries and rice cakes. The main meal of the day was bacon, cabbage and mashed potatoes.
- A copy of the planned menu for 3 weeks for breakfast, midmorning snack, dinner and evening snack was provided for the parents.
- The staff assisted the younger children as was required and encouraged self-feeding as appropriate to the age and the stage of development of the children.
- Nappy changing was carried out as was required during the day in a timely manner.
- The toilets were located within the playrooms which supported independent use by the children with the adults on hand to provide assistance as required.
- The children's individual toileting needs were met, some children were in the process of toilet training, assisted and encouraged by the staff.

#### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- The staff members were observed to be kind, caring, patient and respectful to each child attending.
- The staff demonstrated a knowledge and clear understanding of children's individual needs and picked up on verbal and non-verbal cues regarding nappy changing and drink requirements.
- The inspector observed the staff spoke to the children in low tones of voice and were interacting and assisting children at play time, comforting and nurturing children and meeting the needs of individual children who were using the daily routine laminated picture cards in a designated folder available and accessible to the children throughout the day.
- Staff had devised trays of laminated songs used at circle time for individual children and had furnished a set of them to the parents for use at home.
- The service operated a written record book for communicating with the parents, it recorded a daily record of sleep, toileting, food consumed and activities of the day.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- Each of the playrooms were bright, and beautifully decorated with various artwork displays.
- The walls in the sleep rooms and in the sanitary accommodation, above the nappy changing mat were decorated with various pictures of animals and toy characters.
- The rooms were furnished with an adequate number of child sized chairs and tables.
- The children attending had access to the wide range of play materials and toys in the rooms available on low level open shelving and on the floor.
- The children had access to a large outdoor play area that consisted for an area with artificial grass, an area with grass, partial concrete and soft matting areas.
- A variety of play equipment included for example, a fixed activity unit, football goals posts and balls, swings, cars, moveable swing ball units, sand and water play tables, and toy lawnmowers.

### 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-*

*(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.*

#### Compliance Information

There was a designated sleep room adjacent to the baby room with 3 standard cots provided in the room.

Low level beds with appropriate linen were available for the older children who required to rest or sleep. On the day of the inspection children were observed using the sleep room facilities as children required a rest or sleep.

Designated rest areas were provided in each of the playrooms that consisted of a variety of soft matting and cushioning and seating.

All sleep and rest facilities were appropriate for meeting the needs for children attending in a full day care service on the day of the inspection.

### 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 building was secured to prevent unauthorised access in or a child leaving the setting unsupervised.
- The cleaning agents observed were stored out of the reach of the children.
- There were no cables and flexes accessible to the children, they were secured.
- The outdoor play area was secured with walls and gates.
- Cables observed in the sleep room were secured.

##### Infection Control:

- The children's individual toiletries were labelled.
- There was an adequate supply of disposable protective aprons and gloves for use when carrying out nappy changing as observed in use.
- The nappy changing facilities provided were observed to be clean and intact.

## Safe Sleep:

- The 10-minute sleep checks recorded the position, colour and breathing pattern of the sleeping children.
- The air temperature in the sleep room on the day of the inspection was recorded at 19 degrees Celsius.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. The timber play unit in the outdoor play area was located on a concrete and partial worn away grass surface, with the exception of the slide area that was on soft matting, posing a risk to children of injury. This non-compliance was founded on the inspection of 11/08/'20, the service provided a corrective and preventive action that stated soft matting was put in place on the concrete area located around the play unit and that a concrete base was to be put in place to secure the matting permanently in place. The person in charge informed the inspector the matting was not secured permanently in place and had to be removed due to water damage.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The designated person in charge stated that the service has two options to resolve this issue: place soft matting on the area where the climbing frame is currently or remove the climbing frame and position it in the grass area in the garden. This decision will be made by the Board of Directors as it will be down to cost and funding for this. The service is in the process of getting quotes from suppliers to purchase soft matting for underneath the climbing frame.  
  
Until the work is complete, one staff member is in place always monitoring the climbing frame while it is in use.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. A quotation for the soft matting installation was received.

## Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met. This will be inspected at the next inspection.

## 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) 9 adults present had current First Aid Responder training with the certifications on file.

## 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 fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*

*(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) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -

- (a) Each fire drill had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 26/06/2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check on the fire extinguishers was 4/10/2021, the person in charge informed the inspector that a maintenance check had been booked and the record dated 31/07'23 was received in the office of the early years inspectorate. The smoke alarm check was 14/02/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was on file. The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 70 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 29/07/'23