

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK029
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Busy Kids Creche
-------------------------	------------------

Address of Service:	Ballycummin Village, Raheen, Co. Limerick
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	V94PX06
-----------------	---------

Name of Registered Provider:	James Moore
-------------------------------------	-------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	17/04/2026
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	60	PM	56
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Busy Kids Creche operates as a private full day childcare provider situated on the periphery of Limerick city. The service delivers comprehensive care for pre-school children between the ages of 0 and 6 years, while additionally providing afternoon provisions for school-age attendees. The physical infrastructure comprises six dedicated pre-school rooms, all of which were operational during the inspection period. Internal facilities include a management office, a commercial kitchen, designated sleep rooms, alongside necessary sanitary and nappy-changing stations. The premises further benefit from a substantial rear outdoor play zone, which incorporates a sheltered area to facilitate use during inclement weather.

Staffing

The registered provider is the company director who has appointed a regional manager and a local manager who govern the daily operations of the service. There are an additional 19 staff employed to work at the facility. All staff have achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent and comparable to the award.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 regional manager, 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*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) A designated person in charge of operating the service was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required. The regional manager of the service was also in attendance.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the designated person in charge was present and the staff roster indicated that at all times staff were aware who was in charge each day.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability and the specific roles and responsibilities of each member of the management team.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for 6 new staff members employed to work at the facility since the service was last inspected. The required references were also on file for 4 students who were on a college placement at the facility on the day of the inspection.

(b) References were submitted by staff from either their past employers or from other reputable sources such as colleges and schools.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for 6 new staff members who had taken up employment at the service since the last inspection at the facility. Garda vetting was also available for the 4 students present on the day of the inspection. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(3) All vetting procedures were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) All adults working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or an equivalent such qualification.

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) The registered provider insured that at all times there was a sufficient number of qualified adults working directly with the children at the service.

(2) On the 17th of April 2026 there were 60 preschool children with 14 adults working directly with the children. The adult child ratio was correct.

There were 10 pre-school children and 3 staff in the Wobbler Room 1.

There were 8 pre-school children and 2 staff in the Wobbler Room 2.

There were 9 pre-school children and 2 staff in the Toddler Room 1.

There were 8 pre-school children and 2 staff in the Toddler Room 2.

There were 14 pre-school children and 2 staff in the Preschool Room 2.

There were 11 pre-school children and 3 staff in the Preschool Room 3.

Relief staff were available to replace staff while taking meal breaks. A designated person was available to prepare, cook and serve food to all children who attended the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

BASIC NEEDS:

The service actively promoted healthy eating through fresh, nutritious hot meals and snacks served at regular intervals. During the inspection, at dinner time older children were observed helping serve themselves and clean up after their main meal. Second helpings were readily available for children if needed. Water was accessible to all children throughout the day with jugs and cups reachable in every room.

Sanitary facilities were conveniently located adjacent to each room. The baby and toddler areas had easily accessible dedicated nappy-changing stations with clearly displayed policies. Toiletries were safely stored, labelled, and easily accessible to staff. To maintain hygiene, rooms were equipped with tissues, wipes, and pedal-operated lidded bins for secure waste disposal.

Organised storage areas and labelled coat hooks encouraged child independence. Dedicated sleep rooms next to the baby and wobbler areas contained standard cots, while children over two years in the toddler rooms used low-level beds with individual bedding. Staff stayed with children while they slept and documented frequent sleep checks. Additionally, each room featured rest areas with soft seating and blankets, where staff facilitated quiet periods for relaxation.

Children benefitted from a flexible indoor-outdoor routine, with age-appropriate play areas accessible whenever weather permitted. Sheltered outdoor spaces allowed for play during rain or heat. On the day of inspection, children were appropriately dressed for the weather ensuring comfort during extended periods of outdoor transition.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Each room was thoughtfully designed to foster social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. A second wobbler room with adjacent sleep facilities was recently opened on the ground floor. Both rooms offered a calm atmosphere with ample soft floor space and comfortable adult seating for feeding and comfort. Lots of floor matting encouraged floor play. Both wobbler rooms introduced areas for physical challenges, such as low-level

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

climbing frames for gross motor skills and appropriately sized furniture for tabletop activities. The toddler and preschool rooms were highly adaptable, with layouts and equipment frequently rotated to reflect the children's evolving interests and abilities. All play materials were clearly labelled and easily identifiable on low level open shelving. Photographic displays throughout the service documented the children's activities and milestones. Every room featured a dedicated reading area with a diverse book selection. To keep the environment stimulating, staff regularly redesigned internal and external spaces based on the children's current preferences and developmental needs.

In addition to the active playrooms, the facility recently added a dedicated sensory area in the old dining room, designed as a tranquil retreat. This space allowed children to enjoy quiet time in a soothing environment featuring soft furnishings, dimmed lighting and calming music.

The larger outdoor space at the rear of the premises was thoughtfully designed and contained a variety of age-appropriate play materials. A specific outdoor area remained available for the younger children in close proximity to their playrooms. This section included low-level climbing equipment and suitable ride-on toys, which were positioned on impact-absorbent rubber matting to ensure children played safely. Ample outdoor space was provided for the older children, including equipment that challenged and encouraged their gross motor skills. Large sand boxes offered sensory play opportunities, while outdoor seating supported various tabletop activities. Additionally, plans for planting and gardening areas were in development at the time of inspection. Children were carefully supervised at all times by staff while outdoors.

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) The management at the service ensured that a person with first aid responder training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. There were 4 staff employed who had up to date FAR training.

(2)(a) First aid boxes were safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions throughout the facility.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were positioned in the main office and in all rooms of the service.

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)(a) Records were available to show that fire drills were carried out monthly. The most recent fire drill took place on the 23rd of March 2026.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises. The most recent service of all fire extinguishers took place in October 2025, and the most recent servicing of smoke alarms took place on the 2nd of February 2026.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had a current insurance certificate which outlined that adequate insurance was available for 125 preschool children to attend the service. The insurance cover commenced on the 28th of March 2026 and expired on the 27th of March 2027.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a) The premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure. No identification of any building defects were observed on inspection.
- (b) The entrance to the service was secured and all visitor access was managed appropriately. The outdoor areas were safe and secured with high walls preventing any unauthorised access to or exit from the area.
- (c) Protective covers were provided on light fittings where required.
- (d) The premises throughout appeared clean with a high standard of operational hygiene noted in all areas of the premises. New flooring was recently fitted in the service. Upgrading of bathroom facilities on the first floor was taking place at the time of the inspection. Outdoor equipment was well maintained with all areas outside recently refurbished.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation and nappy changing facilities were noted both internally and externally in the service.