

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH021		
Name of Service:	Bumblebee Kids Ltd		
Address of Service:	The Briars, Ashbourne, Co. Meath		
Eircode:	A84 XT92		
Name of Registered Provider:	Ciara Kavanagh		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	24/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM Not applicable
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Y 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

Bumblebee Kids Ltd provide a sessional service to children from 2 to 6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). The hours of operation were from 09:30am to 12:30pm each weekday. The service is situated in a residential area and is purpose built consisting of 4 care rooms, 2 offices, kitchen and sanitary facilities. On the day of inspection only 1 care room was operational. An outdoor space was located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 2 core staff members and 1 relief staff to provide cover if required. There were 3 staff members present on the morning of the inspection. The registered provider was not present in the service on the day of the inspection.

Methodology

Tusla 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the regulations 9, 11, 19, 20, 23, 25, and 26. however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under regulations 16 and 24. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Room 4 (ECCE Room).

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 designated 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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.

(b) The person in charge, one of the early years practitioners, was present and in charge of the service when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service at 9.40am.

(2) The files for 4 adults including the registered provider were reviewed, and the following was recorded:

(a) Six written validated references were available from past employers.

(b) Two written references, one of which was validated were available from a reputable source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 4 adults whose files were reviewed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring the service to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International Police vetting was not required for any adults who had lived outside of the state for a period of more than six months.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 4 adults whose files were reviewed and who may work directly with the children in the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b) The registered provider had not ensured the following:

- There was no evidence of validation for one reference for one adult available on the day of the inspection

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(2) (a) (b) The reference has been sought and validated.

Preventive Action

(2) (a) (b) The registered provider has enlisted a reference check validation form, which has been submitted which will be used going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Evidence of validated reference and reference check validation form.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 9 has been addressed.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of the inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(3) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained so throughout the inspection. The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In Room 4 (ECCE) Room there were 11 children aged 2 years 7 months to 4 years 1 month being cared for by 2 staff members. There was an additional relief staff member present in the morning until 10am.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Non-Compliance Information

(i) There was no staff roster available or no system in place for staff members to sign in and out on a daily basis.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(i) A staff roster is in place.

Preventive Action

(i) The service is a sessional playschool and staff hours do not change so this roster will be in place until there is a change in staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Staff roster.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 16 has been addressed.

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

(1)(a) Each child's learning and development and wellbeing was facilitated within the preschool in the following ways:

Basic needs:

- Children's snack and water bottles were brought from home. Snack consisted of ham sandwiches, rolls, crackers, yoghurts, cucumber and fruit including strawberries, apples and grapes. Children's water bottles were accessible to the children in their bags during the morning session.
- There was a cosy area, observed in the service for the children to relax in as required. The cosy area was equipped with mats, cushions and a selection of books for reading and relaxation. Children were observed reading books during transition times.
- Children's independence was supported. Children got their snack and water bottles independently at snack time and tidied up afterwards. Children were supported to put on their coats independently.

Supporting relationships:

- Staff demonstrated warm and caring interactions with the children and children were given praise and encouragement. Children were offered comfort and support when needed.
- Staff were observed interacting with children at their level and engaging in children's play, for example playdough making activity with the children.
- Staff discussed that they communicate and share information with parents through monthly emails, letters and notices.
- Transitions were observed to be well managed. Staff gave verbal prompts about what was happening next in the daily routine. Children were also asked what they would like to play with. Routines provided for predictability and comfort for young children.

Physical and Material Environment

- The furniture provided in the care rooms was low level and appropriate to accommodate children whilst

they played and ate in the care rooms.

- The room contained areas of interest to include a home corner with cutlery and dolls, dolls houses and small world resources, and a garage and transportation toys to include a ship, helicopter and rocket which provided pretend and dramatic play opportunities for the children. There were tabletop materials such as pegs and pegboards, jigsaws, threading and matching shapes to support fine motor development. There were construction materials such as plastic blocks and bricks. In addition, there was a chalk board at the children’s level and arts and craft materials such as pencils, stencils, crayons and scissors, to support children’s creativity and mark making.
- Children were observed playing in the outdoor play area. In the outdoor play area, there was a large wooden climbing frame with swings and slide and ropes for climbing. In addition to this there were ride on bikes and small seesaw which promoted opportunities for challenge, safe risk and fundamental movement skills. Resources were brought from indoors to the outdoor area and included plastic building bricks for construction, buggy and doll, garage and transportation toys for pretend play. There was a sand box and staff poured water into this which provided opportunities for sensory development.

Programme of Activities:

- The daily routine was displayed, and this was reflected in the practice on the day. Routines provided for predictability and comfort for young children.
- Staff facilitated a playdough making activity with the children. Staff engaged in play with the children and discussed the process, we use ‘water, flour and oil’ and “How does the playdough feel?”, “Is that sticky?” “Do we need more flour?” The children could choose rolling, playdough shapes and cutters and glitter.

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

(1)(b) There was a cosy corner with soft mats, cushions and books which provided a place for children to rest during the day.

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:

- Entry was managed by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of the children.
- The outdoor play area was enclosed and secure and surfaced with artificial grass.

Infection Control:

- Children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times, such as before snack time and after using the toilet.
- Windows were open in the care room for air circulation.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff discussed that there was no medication currently being administered to any of the children.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were unobstructed in the event of emergency evacuation.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Infection control measures were not always followed. The possible risk of the spread of infection was increased due to the following:
 - The water in the hot taps at the children’s wash hand basin in the sanitary accommodation felt cold to touch. Cold water does not support pre-school children to effectively wash their hands.
 - Hand towels and toilet roll were not hygienically dispensed in the sanitary accommodation.
 - The bin in the sanitary accommodation was not pedal operated and posed a risk of cross contamination.
2. Although a fridge was on the premises, the children’s packed lunches supplied from home were not refrigerated on arrival to the service. This increased the risk of bacteria growth in perishable food items.

Non-compliance under regulation 23 point 2 was identified on the previous inspection dated 07 November 2023. The corrective action submitted following inspection failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

Infection Control:

1. Upon engaging with a GAS registered company regarding hot water in rooms and radiators it was found to be not running effectively, and upon a routine service, it was found that the boiler would need to be replaced. The boiler was replaced on the 23 October 2025 and both the radiators and hot water is running effectively. Toilet roll and hand towel dispensers has been replaced in the sanitary accommodation. There is a portable blue roll dispenser for the classroom. A new pedal bin has been installed for the classroom.
2. Registered provider has put in a new morning procedure, when children come to playschool, all lunches will be placed in the fridge.

Infection Control:

1. The new boiler will be serviced on a yearly basis and monitored monthly as part of their routines and all paper hand towels will be monitored on a weekly basis and will be refilled as required.
2. This will be monitored daily by the staff as part of the daily welcoming.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Photographic evidence of new boiler.
2. Photographic evidence of toilet roll, and hand towel dispensers and new pedal bin.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Non-Compliance Information

(3)(b) There was no record of visitor details observed to be kept on the day of the inspection. The inspector was not requested to sign in and out of the service by an authorised employee.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(3) (b) A new visitor book has been purchased for the premises.

Preventive Action

(3) (b) All visiting personnel will be asked to sign in the visitor book going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Photographic evidence of visitor book.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 24 has been addressed.

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) An adequately stocked first aid box was observed in the care room of the service. This was stored out of the reach of the children but available to staff as needed.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that an adequate number of staff were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and a staff member trained in FAR was available on the premises throughout the opening hours of the service. There was no staff member available with FAR training in the premises for the duration of the services opening hours. It is acknowledged that two staff members were trained in paediatric first aid and available on the premises at this time. The registered provider has FAR training but was not present on the premises on the day of the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(1) A member of staff has been booked onto a First Aid Response (FAR) training course with an end date of the 11 of December 2025.

Preventive Action

(1) This will be renewed every 2 years as required.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Evidence of staff member booking for First Aid Response (FAR) training course.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 25 has been addressed.

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

(4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed on the noticeboard in the hallway in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

1(a) A recent record of fire drills was not available on the premises with the last fire drill dated as having been carried out on the 09 January 2025.

(b) An up-to-date record was not available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

Non-compliance under regulation 26 point 1(b) was identified on the previous inspection dated 07 November 2023. The corrective action submitted following inspection failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

1(a) Fire Drills have taken place and will be done on a monthly basis as required.

(b) A fire protection company has been with the service for a routine visit on the 21 October 2025 and this company have been engaged to do the routine inspection as required, engineers report was submitted. A service of the firefighting equipment was carried out on the 21 October 2025. A fire protection company carried out a service of the fire detection and alarm system on 08 October 2025.

Preventive Action

1(a) Monthly fire drills are now part of the checklist and will be monitored.

(b) Both these companies have been engaged for routine check-ups.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Frill drill records dated 25 September 2025 and 15 October 2025.
- Firefighting equipment service certificate dated 21 October 2025.
- Fire detection and alarm system service certificate dated 08 October 2025.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances under Regulation 26 have been addressed.