

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH021
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bumblebee Kids Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Briars, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A84 XT92
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ciara Kavanagh
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	07/11/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	0
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre Commons Road Navan Co. Meath
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D. Murray
<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).

Conditions if applicable

Not Applicable

## Description of service

Bumblebee Kids Ltd provides 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 09:30 am to 12:30 pm 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 3 core staff members and 2 relief staff to provide cover if required. Present on the day of inspection were 2 staff members. The registered provider arrived when the inspection had commenced and was available for the remainder of the 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,20,21,23,25,26 & 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 co-operation of the registered provider, designated person in charge, staff member 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 as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) (a)&(b) Nine validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the 6 staff members.

(d) Not applicable as no staff member had resided outside the jurisdictions for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Six childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a)&(b) One staff member did not have 2 validated written references either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

One staff member did not have a second validated written references either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a)&(b) Two validated written references are now on file for the 2 staff members.

A check list is now available on each staff members file and all documents must be available when the staff member commences work in the service.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Two validated written references for 1 staff member.

One validated written reference for 1 staff member.

## Summary Comment

The registered provider in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan has addressed the non-compliance for Regulation 9 (2) (a)&(b) Management and recruitment. The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

## 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) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the service.

(3) On the day of inspection there were 2 adults providing care and education to 12 children ranging in age from 3 years 4 months to 4 years 8 months.

## 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) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

#### Basic Needs of the Infants and Children:

- Children's individual needs were well supported by the staff members who engaged in play activities with the children which included table top activities, free play and sensory play with lots of enjoyment observed making play dough.
- Children's personal hygiene was attended to with regular handwashing and supervision while using the toilet. Transitions were handled smoothly with staff members giving the children ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.
- The children brought their own lunches and drinks which they had at 11am. Staffs member were observed chatting with the children at lunch time, helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.
- The service embraces outdoor play and learning with all children observed enjoying outdoor play with their peers.

#### Supporting relationships around children:

- During activities children were offered choices and sought out the staff members for praise, encouragement and reassurance. The children showed confidence around the staff members and appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.

## 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.
- (2) A registered provider-
- (a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016 shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

#### Compliance Information

- (2)(a) The outdoor space was enclosed by walls with a secure gate. The surface area consisted of artificial grass.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The cosy area was poorly developed with only fold out mats with no cushions or soft furnishing to provide comfort to a child who required a break from activities.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The cosy area now has cushions, soft toys and books.

Areas of interest will be included in the monthly check list to ensure all areas are adequately developed.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the cosy area.

#### Summary Comment

The registered provider in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan has addressed the non-compliance for Regulation 20 (1)(b) Facilities for rest and play. The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

- Play materials and equipment were easily accessible on open shelving at the children’s height which included treasure basket, books, animal box, wooden puzzles and a dolls basket which encouraged active engagement and involvement. Areas of interest included wooden dolls houses, construction table and a plastic kitchen along with art and craft materials. All areas had supporting equipment. Staff stated that areas of interest were frequently rotated in the room to meet the needs and interests of the children.
- Equipment in the outdoor space included a wooden play activity unit with a slide, swings and a climbing wall. Additional equipment for e.g., sand tray and ride on toys were brought out for the children to play with.

## 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 following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The door to the service was operated by a release button and the outdoor space was enclosed by walls with a secure gate.

- All play materials were placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children present in the service.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.

### Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed.

- The hand washing policy was implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times. Warm running water was available in the children's sanitary area, along with a supply of liquid soap and hand paper towel for effective hand washing.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. There was no Indoor /Outdoor Risk Assessment Tool to ensure all areas are risk assessed on a regular basis particularly after an accident/incident which requires medical attention.

#### Infection Control:

2. Perishable items including meat and dairy products provided by parents/guardians for the morning snack were stored in the children's bags at room temperature rather than in a fridge. This increased the risk of bacteria multiplying to levels which could result in food poisoning.

3. A toilet brush in the children's toilet was on the floor beside the toilet and within reach of a child. This poses an infection control risk.

4. The bin in the care room which contained empty yogurts pot and a banana skin was not a pedal operated bin and posed a risk of cross contamination.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. A daily indoor and outdoor risk assessment is now available. This will ensure that all areas are checked at the beginning of each day and particularly after an accident/incident which requires medical attention.

#### Infection Control:

2. Parents have been requested to place perishables items in children's lunches in a zip lock bag for storage in the fridge. This practice will be monitored on a daily basis.

3. The toilet brush has been removed and a covered toilet brush is kept out of children reach for cleaning the toilets at the end of the day.

4. The waste bin has been removed and replaced with a pedal bin.

All equipment will be checked on a regular basis to ensure adequate Infection Control measures are in place.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

#### **General Safety:**

Indoor and outdoor risk assessment

#### **Infection Control:**

Photographic evidence of :

Lunches stored in the fridge.

Toilet brush removed from the children's toilet.

Pedal bin.

### **Summary Comment**

The registered provider in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan has addressed the non-compliance for Regulation 23 General Safety and Infection Control. The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

## **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 service provided evidence that a person had up to date paediatric first aid training and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

## 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 13/10/2023.

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

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) (b) A record was not maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarm were last serviced on the 03/03/2022.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b) The fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarm were serviced on the 03/01/2024. The registered provider will ensure that the fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarm are serviced on an annual basis with the maintenance records available for inspection.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Written documentation that the fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarm were serviced.

### Summary Comment

The registered provider in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan has addressed the non-compliance for Regulation 26(1)(b) Fire safety measures. The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 25 children at any one time attending the sessional service. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2023 to 27/03/2024.