

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN005				
Name of Service:	Bizzy Bees				
Address of Service:	Carrickasedge, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan				
Eircode:	A81 H226				
Name of Registered Provider:	Susan Farrelly				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	24/01/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>49</td> <td>PM</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </table>	AM	49	PM	31
AM	49	PM	31		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange Plantation Road Monaghan				
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader and M. Flood				
Title:	Early Years Inspectors				

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
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Description of service

This privately owned service commenced in 2008. It provides a full day care service to children aged 0 - 6years. The service caters for a maximum of 64 children partakes in the ECCE scheme Monday to Friday from 9 am – 12pm. This service is located to the rural area outside Carrickmacross in Co. Monaghan. There are 3 care rooms, sanitary accommodation, a nappy changing area, large kitchen and office. There is an outdoor play area to the back of the service.

Staffing

There are 14 staff including the registered provider working in the service. Thirteen staff are working directly with the children and 1 member of staff is employed in an administrative role.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 20, 22, 26, 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and named deputy person to deputise as required. Both were on the premises when the inspectors arrived on the premises and were present throughout the inspection. Fourteen staff files were reviewed:

(2)(a) There were 2 written and validated references available for all 14 staff members.

(c) A processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for all 14 members of staff.

(d) International police vetting was available for 3 members of staff who had resided outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult. A second international police vetting was also available for 1 member of staff.

(4) The 13 staff members who work directly with the preschool children had an appropriate minimum Level 5 childcare 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.

(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) During the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.

(2) On the day of inspection there were 3 rooms in operation namely the Toddler Room, the Junior and Senior Rooms.

The following adult to child ratios were observed:

- **The Toddler Room:**

There were 14 preschool children aged between 1 year and 2 months to 3 years with 5 members of staff.

- **The Junior Room:**

There were 22 children aged 2 - 3 years cared for by 3 members of staff.

- **The Senior Room:**

There were 13 children aged 3 - 5 years with 2 members of staff.

The child adult ratios were correct.

(8) The registered provider ensured that there are always at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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.

(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,

Compliance Information

(1)(b) The children attending the care rooms had access to a suitable soft area for reading or taking a rest when required. In the Junior and Senior Rooms, the areas consisted of wooden pods with a fabric roof, cushions and a floor mat. In the Toddler Room soft seating consisted of age-appropriate couches, soft mats and additional soft furnishings.

There was a cot room directly off the Toddler Room with 5 cots. Daybeds were also set up in the sleep room for children who were aged over 2 years to sleep on.

(3)(a) The enclosed outdoor play areas were located to the rear of the premises:

Area 1 was directly outside the Toddler Room. It had a safety surface and contained equipment such as a musical wall, small climbing frame, see-saw, large wooden ship, playhouse, a bench and rockers.

Area 2 was a large area with an artificial grass area and safety surfaced area. There was a large wooden frame with pizza swing, slide and climbing frame, monkey bars, see-saws, tunnel, blackboards, musical wall, "story time seat" and ride on toys.

Area 3: This was a designated construction area with gravel areas, mud kitchen, construction toys, musical wall and bird houses.

Area 4: This was a covered area with a table and armchairs, a selection of outdoor toys and books.

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

Lunches for morning snack, dinners and evening snacks were provided by the parents and consisted of a variety of sandwiches/ rolls, fruit, cheese, rice cakes cheese dippers, cereal bars and various types of dinners and drinks. Perishable food items were appropriately stored in a fridge. Potable drinking water was available and the children had access to their drink bottles.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

The Inspectorate was not assured that adequate steps have been taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service. The following observation was made:

Safe Sleep:

An adult was not present at all times in the sleep room to provide constant supervision, while one child was sleeping on a floor bed and 3 children were asleep in cots.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

A meeting was held with all staff members where they were informed that one staff member must remain in the sleep room to supervise sleep while a child is on a floor bed. Staff members also received a copy of an updated sleep policy. Each staff member has also signed off on this document.

The sleep policy has been amended to include that a staff member must remain in the sleep room to supervise sleep at all times while a child is asleep on a floor bed. All new staff members will be informed of this upon induction.

Supporting documentation submitted

Following staff meeting, copy of updated sleep policy signed off by individual staff members submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response is accepted and the non-compliance identified 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

- (1)(a) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service, the last recorded 16/1/24.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated the 10/1/24.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Adequate insurance cover was available for up to 64 children and expires 27/03/2024.