

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO003		
Name of Service:	Benbulben Crèche Ltd		
Address of Service:	College Road, Summerhill, Sligo, Co. Sligo		
Eircode:	F91 T384		
Name of Registered Provider:	Maureen Walsh		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date(s) of Inspection:	19/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	40	PM 40
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84		
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello		
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
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Description of service

Benbulbin Crèche Ltd. is a privately operated full-day-care service for children aged between 0 and 6 years. The early years' service is registered to provide full day care to children attending the service. The age range of children catered for in the service is from 0 – 6 years of age.

Staffing

On the day of inspection there were 6 adults working directly with the children an additional staff member was working in the kitchen and provided lunch cover when required. The manager of the service was also available to help in the care rooms when needed.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 17, 19, 23,25 and 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 wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of 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

(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)(c).

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required in the service. All staff were aware of the management structure in place to include supervisors, room leaders, deputy manager and manger.

2. (a)(b).

The records of nine staff employed in the service were reviewed.

Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of all nine staff employed in the service.

(c).

A garda vetting disclosure was available for the nine staff members employed in the service.

(d)

International police vetting was in place for the one adult working in the service who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

Nine adults employed and working directly with the children had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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 ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times. On the day of inspection, there were seven staff providing direct care to 40 children. An additional adult was providing relief cover for staff breaks.

(2).

The minimum adult to child ratio's were provided on the morning of the unannounced inspection in accordance with the required ratios considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:

Room Name	Children	Childrens Ages	Adults required	Adults Available
Montessori	20	3-6 years	2	3
Toddler 1	9	1-2 years	2	2
Toddler 2	11	2-3 years	2	2

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The registered provider has ensured that all parents and guardians who have a child in attendance in the service is provided with the necessary information in relation to the regulations as follows:

(a) The name, position and qualification of all staff are displayed on the notice board in the entrance to the service, to ensure all parents are aware what staff member is working with their child.

(b) (c) (d) (e)(f) (g).

The type of service provided, the ratios required, the type of facilities available, opening hours and policies are displayed on the notice board in the entrance to the service. The service uses an application to communicate with parents daily.

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

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1) (a)(b).

On the day of inspection three care rooms were in operation. The theme of autumn as part of the Aistear learning model was evident throughout the service as all rooms and hallways were decorated in children's autumn themed artwork and colours appropriate to the age and stage of development of the children in the care rooms. The Montessori room displayed a nature table with autumn leaves and acorns. The inspector observed children

learning through play, how nature gets ready for the winter period. The Montessori room was well laid out to interest the children who utilised the room. Various interest areas were set up in the morning to include painting table, play dough table, pin boards, sensory table, messy play and home corner. Play was child led, where children opted from one activity to the other, taking turns at various tables. In the Toddler 1 room, the room had resources on low level shelves, easily accessible to the babies utilising the room. The room is decorated with pictures of the children and families, creating familiarity for the babies in the room. The babies were observed moving around the room freely, moving from various interest areas including home corners, music corner, sensory wall and puzzle area. In the Toddler 2 room, the toys and resources available were suitable to the age and development of children aged two years plus to include construction area and blocks, home corner, cars and trucks, and art and crafts. All materials and resources were accessible to children.

The service provides balanced meals and snacks to the children in the service. A four-week menu plan was on display in the entrance hallway and a menu for the day was displayed on the door. Snack time was a rolling snack with fruit and toast. The older children participated in getting the room ready for mealtimes by setting the table. Younger children were provided with bibs as appropriate. All children washed their hands prior to mealtimes. On the day, dinner provided in the service was chicken curry and an evening snack of fruit smoothies and rice cakes were provided. Jugs of water were available throughout the day, while milk or water was served at mealtimes. Sleep in the service was structured, standard cots were provided for children under two years of age, while floor beds were provided for those children over two years of age. The sleep routine was observed to be calm and relaxing with circle time and story reading prior to sleep. Soft music was playing to aid relaxation in the Toddler 2 room.

Nappy changing was observed to be completed in line with the service policy. Nappy changes were structured and need led. Staff were efficient in uploading the information to the application to ensure parents had received real time information.

Communication with parents was through an application with real time information. Staff members recorded children's sleep, food intake, nappy changes, activities and observations. Good interactions and communications were observed at drop offs, where verbal handovers took place with parents.

Children were spoken to in a kind and respectful manner, first names were used, appropriate eye contact and gentle voice tones were observed in all interactions. All children were supported by the staff members to be kind to each other and were given time to chat, were listened to and praised and encouraged throughout their play.

Non-Compliance Information

The nappy changing facility provided for children on the day, did not provide adequate privacy for the children. Two nappy changing unit were located side by side and children were observed having their nappy changed simultaneously, with no protection for individual children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A fixed partition panel has been securely placed between the two nappy changing units to provide more protection for individual children during nappy changing.

The fixed partition panel will remain in place between the two nappy changing units

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has reviewed the corrective and preventative action submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliances found on inspection of regulation 19. On receipt of this information, regulation 19 is now in compliance.

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 main entrance into the service was found to be secure to the service. This prevented persons entering unauthorised and children leaving unsupervised.
- The perimeter of the service is secure with high level fencing.
- Cleaning agents are stored out of the reach of the children in the service.
- The Kitchen area was inaccessible to the pre-school children on the day of inspection.
- Leads and flexes were secure and inaccessible to children.
- All toys and play equipment were in good condition in each of the care rooms and outdoor area.

Infection Control:

- Hand hygiene was observed after toileting, messy play and outdoor activities and prior to eating meals.
- Sanitary accommodation was equipped with liquid soap, paper towels, warm water and foot operated pedal bins for efficient hand hygiene.
- Foot operated pedal bins were in operation throughout the service.
- All tables were observed to be cleaned prior to mealtimes.

Administration of Medication:

- There was no medication administered on the day of inspection.
- Medical administration records were available in the service and completed in the event of the service having to administer any medication. This information was recorded on the application used in the service.

Safe Sleep:

- A dedicated sleep room was available in the service off Toddler 1 room. 5 standard cots were available for use in this room.
- Stackable floor beds were provided for children over two years of age.
- Sleep checks were monitored on the service application to include ten-minute intervals and observations of the child's position, colour, breathing pattern of the sleeping child and any remedial action required.
- There was a thermometer in each room to measure room temperatures.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.

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) Five staff members were trained in first aid for children including first aid responder (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2). (a)(b).

The first aid equipment was readily available and safely stored in a conspicuous location in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had on display a certificate of insurance valid until the 31 of August 2024 showing that adequate full day care service insurance cover was in place for the services maximum number of children.