

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD008
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Name of Service:	Busy Bees Ballymacarbry
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Address of Service:	Ballymacarbry Community Centre, Ballymacarbry, Co Waterford
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Eircode:	E91 T6X8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Vanessa Moriarty
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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	N/A
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Description of service

This sessional service is operated from designated rooms in the community centre in the village of Ballymacarbry Co Waterford. The service operates from 09.30 to 12.30 Monday to Friday for 38 weeks per year. An Early Years Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) is provided to children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years of age.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly in the service. There are four staff employed in the service who work directly with the children each day. All staff hold recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(3) Staffing levels,

Regulation 19 (a) Health, welfare, and development of the child,

Regulation 22 Food and drink,

Regulation 25 First aid,

Regulation 26 Fire safety and
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 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) The person in charge confirmed that they or their deputy are present at all times while the service is open.

(b) The person in charge was present when the unannounced inspection commenced and facilitated the inspection process. The registered provider arrived during the morning.

(2) Recruitment records in respect of the five adults employed in the service were reviewed and the following information was obtained:

(a) Two validated references were available for each of the staff members.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from other sources available such as previous schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member working in the service. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable. Review of the CV's indicated that police vetting was not required.

(4) All four of the adults had each obtained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education and copies of the corresponding certificates were available.

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 inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children.
- (3) During the morning session there were 19 children being directly cared for by four staff.

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 children attending the service had free movement around the care room. The available space within the care room supported the children to explore their environment and to freely engage with materials. The children were observed engaging in a number of activities on the morning of inspection such as playing with clay, dress up, imaginative play with dolls and building. Staff engaged in the activities with the children chatting to them and giving them praise. This was observed when one child was dressed as a cartoon character and the staff member was pretending to be another character. The children appeared happy in their environment. A rest area was evident in the room where children could sit together on soft seating to relax or opt out of an activity. Staff consistently supported behaviour confidently to avoid problems arising and supported children to resolve problems among themselves. Staff provided reminders to the children of when to start to clean up prior to starting a planned activity. Children made Valentines crafts and had a post box to post cards and letters if they

wished. Sanitary facilities for the children were available off the care room. Children were assisted as appropriate with their personal care. Children washed their hands before snack time and after messy play.

Physical environment:

The environment in the service was comfortable and inviting. The care room was set up in a variety of interest areas that were well resourced. Open ended activities such as water play were accessible to the children. Arts and crafts materials were also available to the children. Artwork was displayed on the walls of the care room and on the corridors. There was a visual timetable also displayed on the wall for the children to see. Outdoor play was promoted and included as part of the daily programme of activities. The children had access to a secure designated outdoor space. There were ride on toys available and a shed with other resources. The children also had access to a community playground which was onsite and secure.

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

The service had a healthy eating policy. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge in the service. Staff sat with the children during snack time to supervise them, encourage conversation and to help if needed, for example with opening lunch boxes. Morning snack consisted of a variety of foods such as sandwiches, fruit, raisins, yogurts, and cheese. The children were given as much time as the needed to eat their snack. Children had access to their water bottles/beakers and were able to get a drink throughout the day.

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) There were two staff that were working directly in the service trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service. There was also a staff member trained in first aid and one trained in paediatric first aid.

(2)

(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending 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,

(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) There was a written record of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service, most recently on 20th January 2025.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall in the classroom.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An in-date certificate was in place to demonstrate that the service was insured to provide a sessional service for the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.