

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD011
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Name of Service:	Bizzykids Ltd
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Address of Service:	Newtown, Tramore, Co. Waterford
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Eircode:	X91 RH30
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Bolster
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	30/07/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM	21
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan A. Bradshaw
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

Bizzy Kids Ltd. is a privately operated early years service which opened in 2004. The service offers a play-based curriculum to children aged between 1 and 6 years. The service operates from 08:00 to 18:00pm Monday to Friday and is registered to accommodate a maximum number of 128 children.

The service operates from two separate single storey buildings on the grounds of the registered provider's home. The two buildings consist of eight playrooms, two sleep rooms, sanitary accommodation, a kitchen and an office. A variety of outdoor spaces and play areas are available to the children.

Staffing

The service employs 23 staff including the registered provider. The service employs a manager as the designated person in charge, and a second-named staff member was available to deputise as required. The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection.

The staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum QQI Quality Qualifications Ireland level 5, 6 and 8 qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 – Management and Recruitment,
Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels,
Regulation 19. Health, welfare and development of child,
Regulation 25 – First Aid,
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures and
Regulation 28 – Insurance.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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 employed a manager as the designated person in charge and a person to deputise if required. The manager and registered provider were present on the day of inspection.

(2)

The inspector reviewed 23 staff files, including the registered provider.

(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. See regulation 23.

(d)
Police vetting disclosures were available on file for staff members who had worked or lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)
On review of the staff files, evidence was available to demonstrate that all staff working with children had achieved 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.

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)(2)
During the inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children. During the morning there were 7 staff caring for 34 children.
During the afternoon there were 7 staff caring for 21 children. The manager was available to assist in the rooms as required.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(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

On the day of the inspection, there were three rooms in use for the care of pre-school children. A fourth room was used by school-aged children.

The Wobbler room was well-resourced with age-appropriate furniture, materials and toys for the ages of the children attending. The staff member had invitations to play set up on the tables for the children, which reflected their weekly curriculum plan. The children were observed to choose what they wanted to play with during the morning. The children in the Preschool 1 room were given the autonomy to make independent choices during the morning. After lunch was served, a staff member set up the four low tables with a variety of construction, building, creating materials and problem-solving materials and encouraged the children to choose what activity they wanted.

The environment in the ECCE 3 room reflected the planned curriculum displayed. There were chalk etchings on the tarmac as planned for Monday, and the children were enjoying a party on the day of the inspection.

The staff interactions with the children were warm and engaging. Parents dropped off and collected the children directly to their rooms, which provided the opportunity to talk directly with the staff caring for their child. Nappy changing and sleep patterns were led by the needs of the child. Staff were observed to chat and sing songs with the young children as they changed their nappies and washed their hands.

Management of behaviour was gentle and productive. Staff were observed to sit at the children's level and discuss why they were sad or upset. This supported the children's understanding of sharing and taking turns.

Partnership with parents and guardians was promoted through the service's open-door policy for communication. This was evident on the day when a new parent arrived with her child to organise the child's start date. The mother and child were invited into the playroom to meet with the staff who would care for the child and view the playroom.

Staff described how they use an online application to communicate with parents during the day. They demonstrated how they send photographs of the children participating in activities and daily updates of the children's achievements.

Staff described how outdoor play was an essential part of their day. They had the use of four distinct outdoor areas, one of which is covered, so if the weather is inclement, they can still play outdoors. The children and staff in the ECCE 3 room were observed to play football in the afternoon.

Staff were observed to be aware of the children's interests and to act on their cues. Some of the children in the Preschool 1 room were fully engaged in the interactive 'dinosaur game', a staff member extended the play by hiding dinosaur figures in the playground, as a result, the game became more complicated, and more children joined in.

Lunchtime was a social time with staff sitting with the children and chatting as they ate their food. Children were given time to finish what they were eating and then encouraged to scrape their plates and tidy up after eating. The food served was a variety of healthy and nutritious food, for example, there was salmon and pasta, beans, flat breads and a variety of fruits and cheeses.

Children were familiar with the daily routine and were observed washing their hands before eating and after playing outdoors. Children in the Preschool 1 room formed a line when returning to the room from the outdoor play area – the adult reminded them that the colour was still red, and they could move when it went green. When they entered the classroom, they immediately put their sun hats in the baskets and formed a queue to wash their hands.

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

General Safety:

1. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. There were Garda vetting disclosures on file for all staff members, however the vetting disclosures for 2 staff members was not dated within the previous 3 years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda vetting.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Garda vetting has been submitted for both staff members whose current Garda vetting has passed the 3-year period. This will be completed prior to the staff members returning to Bizzykidz for the new school term. Management has complied new documentation for Garda vetting expiry dates to make expiry dates clear when updated Garda vetting is required for each staff member.

Supporting documentation submitted

Garda vetting disclosures.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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 registered provider has ensured that a person trained in first aid was available to the children at all times. Four staff members were trained to the first aid responder standard and available on the day of inspection.

(2)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes were in each room and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position.

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 firefighting 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)

Fire drills were completed monthly, and a written record of these was maintained. The last fire drill was carried out on the 26 June 2025.

(b) A maintenance record was available to demonstrate the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment, fire alarms and smoke alarms. The maintenance was carried out in December 2024 and February 2025.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed 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 registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for a full day care service for 128 children.