

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2017WD504		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bright Stars Clonea		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Clonea Stand Hotel, Clonea, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford		
<b>Eircode:</b>	X35 HR20		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Yvonne Kelly		
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	05/12/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	8	PM 3
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Community Care Centre, HSE Buildings, Cork Road, Waterford City.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M. Ryan.		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable		

### Description of service

Bright Stars Clonea is a privately run childcare service which operates from 08:30 to 13:30 hours Monday to Thursday and is solely for the use of families living in the centre. Bright Stars Clonea caters for up to 15 children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The premises was previously a hotel. The specifically designed childcare centre is located on the first floor of the building. This area consists of one main playroom, a separate sleeping room/sensory room, sanitary facilities, kitchenette area, and laundry room and office space. The children have access to a designated outdoor play area on the premises. The service is located adjacent to Clonea strand approximately 10 kilometers from Dungarvan Town Co Waterford.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the manager and is part of the staff compliment. The service employs two staff who work directly with the children.

### 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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels.

Regulation 17 – Information for parents.

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play.

Regulation 22 – Food and drink.

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, 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

There were three staff working directly with the children present on the day of inspection and one of these staff was the registered provider.

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge. The service also had a named person who was able to deputise as required.
  - (b) At all times during the inspection the registered provider was on the premises.

(2)

On review of the staff files, there was no change in the staff since the last inspection on 24 March 2021, and all staff files were compliant on review at the last inspection.

(4)

There was evidence that all staff employed to work directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5, 6, and 8 on the National Qualifications Framework. There was evidence of continuous professional development and qualification certificates on file.

### 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.*

*(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)(2)

On the morning of the inspection, there were 8 children aged 2 years 9 months to 4 years of age being cared for by 3 staff. In the afternoon on the day of the inspection there were 3 children aged 2 years 9 months to 4 years of age being cared for by 3 staff.

(3)

The staff: child ratios exceeded the requirement for part time day care for the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

### 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

All information required under Regulation 16(1), subparagraphs (a) to (g) for parents or guardians of children attending the service was facilitated by the assistance of one bilingual speaking staff member and the translation service that was made available on site in the service.

### 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-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(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, or*

*(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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

(1)

(a)(b)

The playroom was large, pleasant, and well-resourced into defined areas of interest with quality wooden childcare furniture, play equipment and materials. These areas consisted of a home corner, a small world play area, construction station and a chill out area defined by foam matting, bookshelves, and comfortable rubber seating.

Since the last inspection there had been some changes to the room layout, the extensive safe crawl area for the babies was converted into a messy play area. The registered provider reported the reason for this was that many of the children using the service were two years plus and the need for the crawl area was surplus to requirement. The children observed in this extensive messy play area were enjoying a range of tactile experiences with trays of sand, seeds and water. A large standing easel was well utilised by the children, they were observed freely using this and requesting the paint colour.

A further change observed was to the extensive sleep room. This room was divided to provide a sensory area. The registered provider informed the inspector that the addition of this sensory area was particularly helpful for gently settling children into the service with the support from their parents. An additional benefit was to give some children the opportunity for one-to-one time with staff when necessary. The room was well resourced and laid out with the provision of appropriate specialised sensorial experiences with lights such as, bubble tubes, light tails and rainbow light tabs. There was a large selection of sensorial toys and weighted beanbags. Soft wall and floor matting throughout the room added to a secure cocooning atmosphere.

(2)

(a) (b) A hard surface outdoor play area with fully enclosed metal fencing was available adjacent to the childcare facility on the premises. Outdoor play toys were kept in a designated storage room adjacent to the play area. The service was well resourced with sit and ride equipment, ball games, and gross motor games, such as, skipping ropes and hula hoops. The tarmacadam had playground games and activity markings such as hopscotch.

## 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

Since the last inspection two snack times were introduced during the service hours. This food was sent fresh from the kitchen within the centre daily. The first snack was at 10:00hrs that comprised of a fresh fruit platter with apples/bananas/ cucumber and orange accompanied with bread sticks and water.

The second food snack observed at 12:00hrs was crackers with cheese and yogurt with water or milk to drink. The registered provider stated that the childcare service kept a constant supply of nutritious food in the kitchen on site.

The service had amended the healthy eating policy to include those children attending the service got two well-balanced nutritional snacks every day.