

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2019CC006
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bel Childcare Ltd
-------------------------	-------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit D4, Donnybrook Commercial Centre, Donnybrook, Douglas, Co. Cork
----------------------------	--

<b>Eircode:</b>	T12 FY89
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	John Bowman
-------------------------------------	-------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
----------------------	----------

<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	17/05/2023
-------------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	78	PM	51
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C Stokes
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Bel Childcare Ltd was registered to offer Full day care provision in 2019 for children aged 2 to 6 years. It operates between 7.30 and 6pm daily with a play-based ethos across its four care rooms. It is located in a commercial centre in a suburban area of Cork city. The service has a large, private outdoor area to the side of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider was not service based. There were 13 staff working directly with children on the day of the inspection excluding three managers, one adult in the kitchen and the registered provider. Staff who worked directly with children had qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

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, managers, 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) The registered provider ensured there was a named person in charge (PIC) of operating the service.

(b) In addition to the PIC there was a deputy person in charge in the service and both were present the day of inspection.

(2) There were 4 adults recruited since the previous inspection in August 2022, and these files were reviewed on inspection and the following was in place,

(a) There were 8 validated references from previous employers on file.

(b) There were no validated references from sources other than a past employer.

(c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available for the 4 staff whose file were assessed.

(d) Police vetting was required and available for 4 staff members who had lived outside the jurisdiction for six months or more while over the age of 18 years.

(4) A copy of Child Care Qualification between Level 6 and Level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the 4 new staff members who were working in the service.

### 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) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) The ratio of adults to children was adequate in all playrooms. On the day of inspection, all 4 care rooms were in operation with children aged 2 to 6 years. There was one floating member of staff in the morning and the two persons in charge were assisted with staff cover at breaks.

Room	morning	afternoon
Room 1	3 adults 21 children	3 adults to 2.30, 2 adults after 2.30 with 13 children
Room 2	2 adults 18 children	2 adults 10 children
Room 3	3 adults 18 children	2 adults 13 children
Room 4	4 adults, 20 children	2 adults 15 children

8) (a) There were at least 2 adults available on the premises throughout the duration of the inspection, and at all times in accordance with the staff roster.

### 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:

- Mealtime and snack time was observed to be a pleasant and social experience, where adults talked to and assisted the children as required. The atmosphere was relaxed and not hurried.
- The children were largely independent using the toilet and were supported appropriately by the adults to use the toilet, according to the child's stage of development. Where children were in nappies in room 3, they were observed to be changed regularly and sensitively with staff talking to the child and explaining in advance that their nappy will be changed.
- The adults provided for each child's comfort and each child's need for sleep, rest, and relaxation. The children were all over two years of age and had access to stackable beds for sleep. Children were observed sleeping in Room 2 and 3 which accommodated a few children from the other rooms for sleep. In addition, each of the rooms had specified areas for relaxation with child sized sofas/cushions/pillows/soft mats etc.
- Children's need for mobility was met with both the indoor and outdoor play observed to be in use for all rooms. Children in each room were observed to play outdoors twice or more during the day.
- Children were encouraged and supported to interact positively with each other. The adults emphasised the importance of communication and building skills in children to find solutions to their own problems.

##### Programme of Activities

- The daily routine of the day took account of play as the primary mode of learning for children. There was a predictable but flexible routine in place across the 4 rooms.
- The routine of the day allowed for free play and structured activities where children had opportunities to take the lead and to have free choice.

- The children’s interests were incorporated into the theme of the week, for example in room 4, where 22 children were graduating and transitioning to primary school in September, the theme observed was ‘when I grow up’ and the artwork on display was linked to the jobs selected by the children.
- Regular children’s observations were maintained by the adults for each child which described an activity, recognised the learning and links to Aistear (The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework) and the next steps for extending the learning. These observations were shared and signed by parents and were used to support children and contributed to the emergent curriculum based on the children’s expressed interests.
- Physical activity and gross motor skills development was based around outdoor play and learning and there was a large and well-equipped outdoor space to facilitate this. In addition, there was a strong link to nature with outdoor planting and this was echoed indoors with nature tables, branches decorated, and pot plants tended to inside.
- Short term planning was on display across notice board and curricular plans were well evidenced.

### 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

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a) There were adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors. The indoor environment of each room was laid out in defined interest areas. The outdoor area was also laid out with a range of developmentally appropriate toys and materials to offer stimulating and challenging opportunities for play and learning.

(b) There were 22 stackable beds available for the children across the 4 rooms to sleep. Set sleep times, after lunch were well established in rooms 2 and 3 where the majority of children slept and were joined by 3 children from room 1 and 4 children from room 4.

## 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

- On the day of inspection, pasta, pork mince vegetables and gravy was the main hot meal of the day. Fruit/ vegetable selection and fish fingers were served as the afternoon snack. The mid-morning snack was a fruit selection and pancakes with berry sauce. The breakfast offered was toast and cereal. Evening snacks comprised crackers, rice cakes and sandwiches.
- Water and milk were served as drinks with meals/snacks.
- Meals and snacks were served not more than 3 hours apart.
- The meals/snacks were prepared in the designated kitchen by the cook.
- A detailed menu plan of all meals/snacks was available for inspection.
- The service carefully managed dietary requirements, eg gluten free pancakes, egg free pancakes, lactose free pancakes etc
- A healthy eating policy was in place and observed to be followed on the day of inspection.
- The menu plan was on display for parents in the front window.

### 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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the preschool. Access to the service was gained by pressing a buzzer/intercom system on the entry door which was answered by a staff member preventing unauthorised adults from entering the building.
- The windows examined were secured with restrictive opening devices.
- Cables were secured on the day of inspection.
- The staircase leading from the ground floor upstairs had a handrail and was brightly lit.
- Cleaning agents were noted to be stored out of the reach of children on the day of inspection.
- The outdoor area was secured and fully enclosed and no safety concerns were noted.

##### Infection Control:

- The playrooms were kept adequately ventilated, with openable windows for the circulation of fresh air.
- The service had warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels and hand washing was observed to take place appropriately. Children were observed washing their hands before and after their midday meal and after outdoor play.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water was available for children's hand washing. The temperature of the water ranged from 30.8 to 40.8 degrees Celsius at the children's sinks.
- Waste was stored and disposed of appropriately with foot operated lined pedal bins in use.

##### Safe Sleep:

- No children under 2 years attend the centre. Ten-minute sleep checks were conducted in the rooms where children slept on stackable beds by the staff who remained in the room at the sleep time.

##### Fire Safety:

- No fire safety concerns were noted on the day of inspection.

##### Outing:

- No outings occurred on the day of inspection.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,
- (b) safe and secure,
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

#### Compliance Information

- (a) From visual inspection the premises appeared of sound and stable structure, well-finished and weather tight.
- (b) From visual inspection the premises appeared safe and secure. Appropriate security systems with an intercom system at the front door managed unauthorised entry and unsupervised exit of children from the service.
- (c) The service was adequately lit, heated and ventilated on the day of inspection.
- (d) The service was well maintained, in a proper state of repair and clean on the day of inspection.
- (e) An adequate ratio of toilets and nappy changing was in place for children as a 1 to 11 ratio was in place. For adults there were 3 adult toilets, and a 1 to 8 ratio was in place.

Room	Toilets/changing units	location
Room 1	2 sinks, 2 toilets for 22 children	In the room
Room 2/3	4 sinks & 4 toilets for 43 children	Off the hall between room 2 and 3
Room 4	2 sinks, 2 toilets for 22 children	In the room
Nappy Changing	1 unit, 1 sink	Downstairs , front lobby
Totals	8 toilets/sinks for 88 children plus 1 nappy changing	