

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023GY005
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Cheeky Monkeys Childcare
-------------------------	--------------------------

Address of Service:	Crumlin National School, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	H54 VY03
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Brenda Hannon
-------------------------------------	---------------

Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

Date of Inspection:	21/10/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	4
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---


Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla -Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical and Administration Building, Block A – Merlin Park Hospital, Galway City.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan.
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

	<p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016</p> <p>QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2023GY005</p>	1 of 9
---	---	--------

This part-time service known as Cheeky Monkeys is in Crumlin national school, in a converted classroom in a rural area of county Galway. The preschool provides an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), sessional care from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and offers a part-time care programme from 8 am to 1 pm, Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year. There is a large playroom, a kitchenette and sanitary facilities. The outdoor play area is at the entrance to the service.

Staffing

There are 6 adults working in the service which includes the register provider. Four of the adults work with preschool children and there are 2 adults employed to work in the school aged service. The adults working directly with the children in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of a level 5 to a level 8.

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 and safety. The inspection 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, 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.

(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) During the inspection the designated person in charge was the registered provider and a named person to deputise was available as required.

(b) The registered provider and the deputy manager were available on the premises during the operation of the service.

Six files were available for the registered provider and adults employed by the service. These files were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a) Nine of the 12 written references with evidence of verification were available from past employers.

(b) Three of the 12 written references with evidence of verification were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 6 adults employed by the service; however, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting time frames as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory

Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every 3 years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

- (d) International police vetting was available in respect of one of 2 adults who lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) All the adults working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from Level 5 to 8 or a recognised equivalent qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) International police vetting was not available in respect of 1 adult who lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(d) Police vetting has been sourced and submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate; in future we will ensure that all vetting procedures are carried out prior to induction in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)(d) A copy of the outstanding police vetting for 1 adult was submitted.

Summary Comment

On review of the documentation submitted the Early Years Inspector has deemed it has met the requirement of this part of the Regulations.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

Compliance Information

(1) The adult to child ratios were observed to be correct on the day of inspection.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 13 preschool children present and in the afternoon 4 preschool children being supervised by 4 adults.

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

19(1)(a)

Basic Needs

- The healthy eating policy was available for parents and guardians to view. A 3-week menu was displayed in the playroom notice boards.
- The snacks observed consisted of sandwiches, crackers, fruit, cheese and yogurts.
- Water was readily available in the playroom and children were encouraged to help themselves as required throughout the day.

- Children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner and the children in the playroom sat at age-appropriate low-level tables. Children had the opportunity to talk to each other and adults on a social basis during snack times.
- The children were toilet trained and used the toilet independently or with some assistance from adults.
- Hand washing was observed after toileting, before snack time and after outdoor play. Children were given reminders and supervised by adults.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the cosy areas in the playroom.
- Freedom of movement was afforded for preschool children in all the playrooms in and out of special interest areas.
- Children had the opportunity to go outside for fresh air and play activities at various times throughout the day. A new outdoor sheltered play area was put in place since the last inspection with a variety of special interest areas.
- The adults were observed to be interested in the children, spoke in low tones, listened to them and responded to their requests. The adults interacted in a positive way with the children e.g. they sat at children's level, maintained good eye contact, showed empathy and a good understanding of each child and were observed to be caring and supportive in their interactions with the children.
- Children were observed in circle time, artwork, playing in large and small groups both in the playroom and outdoor play area. The children were preparing for Halloween and the theme for the week was Halloween.

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 entrance to the service was appropriately secured to monitor people's entry to the service. The internal entry and external exit points prevented children leaving or unauthorised persons entering the service.
- The outdoor area was secured with a fence and gates.

- Hazardous items were out of reach of the children in cupboards and were secured with child safety devices to prevent the children accessing the contents within.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Garda vetting was available for 6 adults, however 1 of these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous 3 years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting' posing a potential risk for children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The outstanding garda vetting for 1 adult has been submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate; we will ensure that vetting is carried out in future within the required 3 years.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- A copy of the new garda vetting was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The documentation was reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and has been deemed to have met the regulatory requirements of this part of the Regulations.

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) Four adults had a record of up to date First Aid Response (FAR) training and were rostered to be available on the premises on the day. Certificates available evidenced that a total of 6 adults had in date First Aid Response (FAR) training.

(2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in all the playroom.

(b) First aid boxes were available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency in 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, 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) Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed by the service. The last fire drill took place on the 16 October 2025.
- (b) Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service date recorded for the firefighting equipment was the 04 March 2025 and the smoke alarm certificate was dated 12 September 2025.
- (4) Fire action notices were displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An in-date insurance certificate was available for 22 children on a part time care basis until the 27 March 2026.