

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2023TY003
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Busy Bees Powerstown
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Powerstown National School, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E91 Y961
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Vanessa Moriarty
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	14/07/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	22	PM	23
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Antoinette McNamara
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<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Busy Bees Powerstown is a full day care service for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is in a primary school in the rural area of Powerstown, Clonmel. The service has a dedicated entrance and sanitary accommodation for their own use. A range of outdoor play areas are available onsite. The service is one of several early years services operated by the registered provider in the South Tipperary area. A registered school aged service is also provided onsite.

### Staffing

The service currently employs 10 staff members who work directly with children. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. Staff members held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent at level 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)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) (3) Records in relation to a pre-school child,

Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, welfare, and development of the child,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,  
Regulation 25 First aid,  
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) There was a designated person in charge and a named deputy who was able to deputise, as required.
- (b) The deputy designated person in charge was present for the inspection.  
The staff files for ten staff were reviewed on the day.
- (2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each staff member working at the service.
- (b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources 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) Police vetting documentation was available for three staff working in the service, who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.
- (4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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) There were adequate staffing levels to respond to the children’s needs on the day of inspection.

(2) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection were above the minimum regulatory requirements.

- Pre-school room 1: 11 children cared for by 3 staff.
- Pre-school room 2: 12 children cared for by 3 staff.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-  
(c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

A sample of 10 completed registration forms were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

- (1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation.
- (3) The registration forms were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

## 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

1 (a)

#### Basic needs:

The service had a healthy eating policy. The children brought their own food which was stored in a fridge. Staff sat with the children during snack times, this encouraged conversations and they provided any assistance if needed.

Drinking water was available to the children throughout the day, should they become thirsty at any stage.

The available space within the care rooms supported the children to explore their environment and to freely engage with materials.

Children in both rooms were engaged in a variety of activities and play during the morning such as building blocks, reading stories and floor play.

The location of the sanitary facilities, across from the care room, enabled children to access and utilise these facilities in an independent manner.

Rest areas were incorporated into each of the playrooms and available for use by children as needed. The children also had access to floor bed if needed.

### Physical and material environment:

In each of the rooms, a variety of defined areas of interest were provided for the children to play with. This included dress up area, kitchen, library, and other age-appropriate toys. Low-level shelving provided children with access to a wide selection of activities.

The outdoor play area was shared with the primary school to the side and rear of the premise and was secure. These consisted of a grass area, school playground and a smaller secure playground area for children. The pre-school had its own designated covered outdoor play area that had a messy play area, tables and chairs and blackboards. The pre-school also had a shed of additional outdoor resources such as ride on toys and outdoor games. Children used the outdoor space as often as they could weather permitting. There was also a large hall available for the children to play in.

Children's identity and belonging was fostered through the display of their arts and crafts and birthday wall. The family wall was displayed to provide an important link between home and preschool.

### Supporting relationships around children:

The children benefitted from the very favourable adult to child ratios which enabled each child to receive as much individual attention and support as they needed.

The small group size supported the children to get to know each other well and to develop friendships within the group.

Children who were unsettled were supported by staff in a kind and caring manner. Staff were observed sitting with a child who was upset on the morning of inspection.

Staff sat with the children and encouraged play. Children were given timely reminders of when to tidy up for a planned activity.

## 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 premises was adequately secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining access. The entrance door to the service had to be opened by a staff member. The inspectors were required to

sign in on arrival. The outdoor play areas were secured to prevent children leaving. All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to children. Blind cords were secured to the walls. Radiators were fitted with covers.

**Infection control:**

Suitable handwashing and drying facilities were available in the children's and adult's sanitary facilities. This included warm running water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels. The children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge. Tissues and a tissue bin were available for use. Foot pedal operated bins were also in use. Staff were observed cleaning the tables after play.

**Fire safety:**

Fire exits were found to be unobstructed on the day of inspection.  
There were fire evacuation procedures displayed in a prominent area within the service.

### 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 staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service.  
(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 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 full day care for the number of children the service is registered to accommodate.