

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2024DR005

Name of Service Brighter Bunnies Childcare

Address of Service: Unit 5 Crofters Quarter, Deansgrange Road. Blackrock, Co. Dublin A94 K7K2

Email Address: info@brighterbunnies.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Somaia Halawa

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: To change the age range of children accommodated from 2-6 year olds to 1-6 year olds.

Proposed Number of Children: Currently registered for a maximum of 33 preschool children.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: To register for childcare provision of 1-6 year olds up to a maximum of 31 children.

Registered change: Change in age profile from 2-6 years to 1-6 years
Change in number of children from 33 to 31 children

Date of Inspection:	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: R Phillips

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Level 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham Dublin D08X01F

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 31 Children
Date of Registration	10 th December 2025

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Brighter Bunnies currently provides full day care for preschool children aged 2-6 years. This service operates between 08:00-17:30 Monday to Friday. The service proposes to provide full day care for 1-6 year olds.
Premises	<p>This service operates from a purposely adapted ground floor facility, within an apartment complex, in an urban area of Blackrock Co. Dublin.</p> <p>Two care rooms are provided. Sunshine room currently facilitates children from 3-5 years, and it is proposed this room will now facilitate children from 2 years 9 months to 5 years. Tiny Tots is proposed to facilitate children aged from 1-3 years. There is adequate sanitary accommodation, a catering kitchen and a small enclosed outdoor play area.</p>
Staffing	The service employs five adults including the registered provider as service manager, and a designated deputy manager, and three more childcare practitioners.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>

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Acknowledgements	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.
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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.

Requirement met:	(1) The registered provider works in the service as manager and has a named person to deputise as required. The requirement has been met.
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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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:	(1) The requirement has been met. Four adults are currently employed to work directly with children. The registered provider demonstrated an awareness of the minimum staffing requirements specified in Part 1 of schedule 6, outlining the minimum adult to child ratios for children aged 1-2 years and 2-3 years and 3-6 years. (8)(a) The registered provider is aware of the requirement to have at least two adults on the premises at all times when the service is in operation.
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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—*
- (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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—*
- (a) *a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The care room is fully equipped with a suitable range of play materials, specialist Montessori materials and books provided and stored on open low level shelving accessible to the preschool children. These materials provide for manipulative, creative, sensory and imaginative play. There are designated interest areas including a home corner, library area, and art area accessible to the children at their level.

(b)

There are comfortable relaxation areas in each of the two care rooms which contain soft matting and cushions where children can rest or take a break from activities.

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11 Low level beds are available for children over two years attending who may require sleep or rest. There are two cots available for children under two who are attending to provide for them to sleep as required.

(2)(a)

There is an enclosed outdoor area provided on the premises with artificial grass surfacing. Suitable play equipment and materials are available including a slide, climbing frame, seesaw, and gross motor play materials.

This outdoor area is fully enclosed and secured to prevent unauthorised entry or a child leaving unsupervised. The outdoor areas were well maintained, and no hazards were observed.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service has a healthy eating policy.

A working kitchen is available on the premises. The children were enjoying fruit and brown pitta bread toasted for a snack on the inspector's arrival. The children's dinner and tea will be hot meals which will be sourced by an external company and reheated on site. A three-week rolling menu of the healthy hot meals were displayed in the reception area with a list of snacks. The children were offered a choice of milk and water to drink with both snacks and hot meals and there is a water station in each room. A fridge was available for the storage of perishable foods.

The registered provider has notified the relevant health authority regarding the preparation of food on the premises.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met

- The external door is secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The gate in the outdoor area is suitably secured.
- There are no loose cables or cords that could pose a risk of injury.
- An infection control policy is in place to inform practice.
- There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the sanitary areas and in the care rooms.
- Cleaning schedules are in place.
- Cleaning materials are stored safely.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to the children.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The deputy manager of the service has current certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training and currently works all the hours of opening. The registered provider has booked to attend a FAR training three-day course. Two other staff members have in date paediatric first aid training.

(2)(a)(b)

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A suitably equipped first aid box is provided in each care room. It is clearly identifiable and easily accessible.

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 fire fighting 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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The registered provider has indicated that fire drills will be carried out on a monthly basis. The service currently has a record of fire drills.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>There is a record available relating to the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and for the fire detection and alarm system.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>The notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed conspicuously in the service and the fire assembly point was identified.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>An insurance certificate is available which shows there is insurance cover in place for up to 33 preschool children for full day care and 5 school age children.</p>
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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (a)
The registered provider confirmed that the premises is of sound and stable structure.
- (b)
The registered provider has taken appropriate measures to safeguard the premises. The external door was locked to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving unsupervised.
- (c)
The care rooms were adequately lit, heated and ventilated. There was a good level of natural lighting in each care room from glass doors and windows and artificial ceiling lighting available as required. The service is unable to open the windows for ventilation. Ventilation is provided by a mechanical system of ventilation in the care rooms and sanitary areas.

The care room is heated by a combined centrally controlled heating and air conditioning system. The temperature in the care room on inspection was 18 °Celsius.
- (d)
The premises and surrounding environment were clean and maintained as required. A cleaning schedule was in place and cleaning equipment was available. The care rooms sanitary areas and equipment observed on inspection were very clean.
- (e)

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	<p>Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities have been provided. There are three toilets and four wash hand basins for children’s use and one toilet and wash hand basin available for adults. There is a large suitable nappy changing area provided. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in wash hand basins. The water temperature on inspection was 29°Celsius.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
 - (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.</p> <p>(2) The registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in schedule 7.</p> <p>A total clear floor space of 52m² is available in the Sunshine room for the proposed maximum daily attendance of 10 preschool children ranging in age from 2 years 9 months – 6 years on a full-time basis. There is 26 m² in Tiny tots room available for a</p>
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proposed six preschool children ranging in age from 1-3 years attending on a full time basis. The service is also registered for up to 5 school aged children.