

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024DR005			
Name of Service:	Brighter Bunnies Childcare			
Address of Service:	Unit 5, Crofters Quarter, Deansgrange Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin			
Eircode:	A94 K7K2			
Name of Registered Provider:	Somaia Halawa			
Service type:	Full Day Care			
Date of Inspection:	18/02/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	10
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08X01F			
Inspection undertaken by:	R Phillips and E Mulhern			
Title:	Early Years Inspectors			
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	NA			

Description of service

Brighter Bunnies is a private childcare facility providing full day care for preschool children aged 2-6 years. The service operates between 08:00-17:30hrs Monday to Friday. This is a purposely adapted ground floor facility which operates within an apartment complex in an urban area of Blackrock, South County Dublin. Two care rooms are provided, Sunshine room facilitating children from 3-6 years of age, and Tiny Tots facilitating children from 2-3 years of age. There is sanitary accommodation, a catering kitchen and a small enclosed outdoor area also available.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service and employs a designated deputy manager and two other childcare practitioners. There was a Transition Year student present on the day of inspection.

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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations

- 9 (1)(2)(4) Management and Recruitment,

- 11 (1) (2) Staffing levels
- 19(1)(a) Health Welfare and Development of child

The findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 (1)(a) As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Tiny Tots room.

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 inspectors wish 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

(1)(a) The registered provider works in the service and has a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider as manager of the service was present throughout the inspection and attended the closing meeting.

Staff files for four adults and a transition year student were inspected.

(2)(a)(b) Two references with records of verification were available for all staff and the student.

(2)(c) Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all four staff, and a transition year student. They were dated within the last three years in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorates regulatory notice that requires registered providers to reapply for Garda vetting for all staff within a three-year timeframe.

(4) Each employee working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) One staff member who lived as an adult in a jurisdiction outside of Ireland for a period of six months or longer required police vetting from that state. The inspector acknowledges that international police vetting was available for two staff members who had worked outside the Irish jurisdiction for 6 months or longer as adults.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The police vetting was applied for and received.

The registered provider will seek evidence of police vetting for any adult who has lived in a jurisdiction outside of Ireland for six months as an adult, prior to commencing employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Police vetting certificate submitted.

Summary Comment

The action taken and supporting documentation submitted, addressed the non-compliance.

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 an adequate number of adults working with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2) There were four staff working with ten preschool children on the day of inspection.

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 promoted healthy eating. The children were observed enjoying a fruit snack and toast which the staff prepared for them and a hot meal at lunchtime. The staff sat with the children at low level tables and chairs and engaged in conversation while they ate, promoting a relaxed atmosphere. Staff were observed to support children who needed additional help at mealtimes, and to intervene sensitively between children where necessary.

Drinking water and milk were available to the children.

The staff promoted independence with handwashing before eating, after blowing their noses and after using the toilet, and supported the younger children as required. The sanitary facilities were suitable with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. There were nappy changing facilities for those children requiring same and staff were observed changing nappies in a timely manner, engaging the children in conversation while doing so.

Supporting Relationships:

The inspector observed teamwork among the childcare staff, as they communicated well with one another regarding the children's individual needs. There was a designated area for family photos at the children's eye level, to promote a connection between home and preschool. The staff completed a software application for communication of each child's activities and care throughout the day to parents.

The play observed was child led. Children's choice of activity was facilitated, and the freedom to opt out of an activity respected. The staff demonstrated warmth and affection, speaking in gentle tones, encouraging independence and managing minor disputes competently.

Physical and Material Environment:

The Tiny Tots care room was bright warm and comfortable. It was adequately stocked with equipment, toys, and arts and crafts materials. The toys were easily accessible to the children. There were some defined interest areas, such as dress up outfits and a wooden kitchen to encourage imaginative play. Small world toys and puzzles were available on low level shelves to promote fine motor activity. The children were observed enjoying sensory play, while finger painting.

There was a comfortable rest area with a brightly coloured mat and cushions, and some books. The children were facilitated to sleep after dinner on low level beds. Staff assisted them in removing shoes and outer clothing, supporting them to settle to sleep.

The outdoor play area facilitated gross motor development, with a climbing structure, slide and a tunnel. The ground was covered in artificial grass, suitable for all weather play, and the children were observed going outdoors to play, supported by the staff to independently put their outdoor clothes on.

Programme of Activities

Children's language development was supported through one-to-one conversations, and group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed during inspection. There was evidence of planning activities with a "people who help us in our community" theme for the month.