

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2026TY001
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Name of Service:	Busy Bees Irishtown
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Address of Service:	57 Irishtown Clonmel Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E91T250
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Name of Registered Provider:	Vanessa Moriarty
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	02/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	3	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara
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	N/A
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Description of service

This is a sessional service and provides care and education for children aged between 2 and 6 years old. The pre-school runs Monday to Friday 08:30 to 12:00. This includes a daily three-hour session funded under the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) for eligible children, which operates between 09:00 and 12:00. The service operates from a single-story building on the grounds of St. Mary's National School in Clonmel town. The premises consists of one activity room, sanitary accommodation and a kitchenette. The outdoor play area is secure and located at the back of the premises. The is one of several Busy Bees childcare facilities in the South Tipperary area.

Staffing

On the day of the inspection there were three staff working directly in the service. Also present on the day of inspection was the registered provider and the administration manager. The registered provider does not work directly in the service but is available to provide cover as needed. Staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Education 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 announced 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)(3) Staffing levels,
Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, welfare, and development of the child,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,
Regulation 25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First aid
Regulation 26 (1)(a)(b)(4) Fire safety
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,
- © 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) A person in charge was present on the day of inspection. A person in charge was present daily.

The staff files for three childcare staff, the administration manager and the registered provider were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each person working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.

© Garda vetting was available on file for everyone working in the service and the registered provider. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

- (d) Not applicable. Review of the curriculum vitae indicated that police vetting was not required.
- (4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working with pre-school children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The person in charge ensured that there were enough adults to respond to children’s individual needs. There were three staff directly working with three children.
- (3) The person in charge ensured that the adult to children ratio was maintained. The service exceeded the minimum child to adult ratio required under the regulation.

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) The following was observed on the day of inspection through direct observation and discussions with staff:

Basic needs:

The children enjoyed freedom of movement and had the opportunity to explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors. There was a sensory area in the classroom available to the children. There also was a cosy area in the classroom where the children could rest and relax during the day. The classroom area was furnished with floor

rugs or padded vinyl mats and child tables and chairs. Staff supervised the activities which children choose to part take in and assisted the children as necessary or showed them how to do something. Children had a choice of a wide range of activities and could play outdoors at any time if they so wished. A staff member supported children in the outdoor area with water play where they were enjoying playing with the animals. Children brought snacks from home which they could eat at snack time. Drinking water was available to the children throughout the day. Sanitary facilities were directly accessible off the classroom which supported the children to use the toilets independently when they needed to.

Supporting relationships around children:

The children were cared for by the same team of staff each day with favourable adult to child ratios which enabled the staff to give each child as much individual attention as they needed. Staff were observed to be understanding of the children in their care, to respond quickly and sensitively to their needs and to speak to them with kindness and encouragement. The staff sat with the children, at the tables, or played outside observing their play and exploration, assisting the children as required, engaging them in conversation and being available to them.

Physical and material environment:

In the classroom a variety of defined areas of interest were provided for the children to play with. This included dress up area, dolls, a doll house, library, jigsaws, a soft play area and other age-appropriate toys. Low-level shelving provided children with access to a selection of activities. Children had use of a sensory corner if they so wished. The classroom had a suitable rest area available to the children, this consisted of a soft wipeable couch, and a rug. The outdoor play area to the rear of the premise was secure. This was a large yard which held two messy play trays, a toy garage and ride on toys. There was a shed of additional outdoor resources available for the rotation of materials. Children used the outdoor space as often as they could. The children's artwork was displayed on the pre-school room walls.

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 main door to the service was locked and had to be opened by staff. The outdoor area was secure therefore children could not leave the service and unauthorised persons could not enter. Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children. Blind cords were secured to the wall to prevent injury to children. There was a stair way in the outdoor area which was closed off to children with a gate.

Infection control:

There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. There were designated children's toilets available to the children. Designated staff toilets were also provided. Handwashing reminders and steps were present in the sanitary accommodation. Children were supported to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after messy play. A tissue station was available to the children in the classroom. Pedal bins were in operation to avoid cross contamination. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge.

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.
Firefighting equipment was present in 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 Response (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 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) There was a written record of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service, most recently on the 11th of February 2026.
- (b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. A fire register was maintained for these records and all records associated with fire safety in the service. The firefighting equipment had an annual service in December 2026. The smoke alarm system was last serviced in December 2026.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall in each room.

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 inspection to demonstrate that valid insurance was in place for a sessional service.