

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL024					
Name of Service:	Barnies Pre-school					
Address of Service:	1 The Drive Kelly's Bay Skerries Co. Dublin					
Email Address:	christine.hanney1@gmail.com					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Christine Hanney					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒			
Date of Inspection:	0	7	1	0	2	1
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	8	PM	N/A		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency, Suite 7 Vista Primary Care Ballymore Eustace road Naas, Co. Kildare					
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	F. Maher Early Years Inspectors					

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	This privately owned sessional service was established in 2010 and provides care and education to children between 2-6 years of age. The service opens Monday to Friday from 09:15-12:15hrs for 38 weeks of the year. There were 8 children present on the day of inspection. Learning is facilitated through a play-based curriculum.
Premises	The pre-school is located in one preschool room incorporated into the private home of the registered provider and is situated in a private residential estate on the outskirts of Skerries Co. Dublin.
Staffing	Three adults, including the registered provider were present on the day of inspection. Adults working directly with the pre-school children held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher, as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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. 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 areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the pre-school room and the outdoor play area. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff members and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information:	(1)(a) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. (b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection. Regulation 9 (2) (a), (b), (c), (d) & (4) was not reviewed as there was no change from the last inspection to the staff employed in the service. (6A) One adult was employed pursuant to the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.
-------------------------	---

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information:	The registered provider ensured that the required written policies procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 were in place in the service. The following policies were reviewed to which the content, as assessed by the inspector, had been updated to meet requirements in light of the Covid-19 pandemic: • Risk Management Policy • Infection Control Policy
-------------------------	---

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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information:	(1),(3) The registered provider ensured there was at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service and ensured that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 were maintained as outlined in Table 1:
-------------------------	--

Table 1.

Room	Type of Service	Age Range in Years	Children Present	Adults Present	Minimum number of adults required
Pre-school room	Sessional	2-6 years	8	2	1

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

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS

The service promoted healthy eating and parents provided the morning snack for their child. Snacks provided consisted of bread rolls and sandwiches with healthy fillings, fresh fruit and cheese with water to drink. Children were afforded plenty of time to eat their snack and were not rushed.

Regular hand washing and sanitising practices were observed throughout the morning as needed. Self-toileting was supported and children were supervised as necessary. Children enjoyed freedom of movement within the pre-school room and in the outdoor play area.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

The pre-school room was equipped with low level child sized tables and chairs and materials and equipment were easily accessible on low level open shelving units in the room. Materials and equipment included paint, paper, crayons, art and craft materials, blocks, puzzles, books, cars, trains and tracks, animals and materials for fine and manipulative play and learning activities. Interest areas included a kitchen, construction and library area.

The outdoor play equipment included a small slide, sand play, ride on and push pull equipment, child sized seating and large storage containers ensured equipment was protected from inclement weather when not in use.

Non-Compliance Information:

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

1. There was no cosy/rest area available in the pre-school room for a child to relax/rest and take a break from activities if required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

Cosy area provided for children to relax.

PREVENTIVE ACTION:

Sofa and throw and soft cushions set up in playroom.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED:

Photograph of soft furnishings and child sized couch located in the pre-school room.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance identified at inspection has been addressed.

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 entrance to the pre-school and side gate entrance/exit was secure and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

INFECTION CONTROL:

There was an infection prevention and control policy available to inform practice and had been updated to reflect current practice guidelines in relation to Covid-19.

Records were maintained of the children and staff and for any person entering the service to facilitate contact tracing in the event of an outbreak of infection. The staff members were aware of the procedures to be followed in the event a staff member or child exhibited symptoms of Covid-19 and an identified isolation area was available if required and personal protective equipment was available. A constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, paper hand towel and liquid soap were available to support effective hand washing practices and children were observed being supervised by staff when washing their hands. Foot pedal operated bins were available for the hygienic disposal of used tissues and paper hand towel and the pre-school rooms and sanitary areas were ventilated by means of openable windows. Hand sanitiser was available and staff supervised children when using same.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

Adults were familiar with the safe procedures in place to administer medication to a child if the need arises.

FIRE SAFETY:

Staff were familiar with the safe evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency occurring in the service and all fire exits were unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information:

1. The paper hand towel used by the children in the sanitary cubicle was not hygienically dispensed and was observed in loose sheets in a tray; this was inadequate for infection control purposes.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	CORRECTIVE ACTION: Hand Towel dispenser purchased and waiting on delivery. EVIDENCE SUBMITTED: Copy of receipt for purchased paper hand towel dispenser.
Summary Comment:	The non-compliance identified has been addressed.

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) Persons trained in first aid for children were immediately available to the children attending the service. (2)(a)(b) The first aid equipment was safely stored and in conspicuous positions in the pre-school rooms and were at all times available to the children attending the pre-school 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) A record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. (b) There were records available detailing the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke/fire alarm system in the service dated August and September 2021 respectively. (4) Notices were displayed detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.
-------------------------	---