

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2026TY002
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Name of Service:	Busy Bees Baunreagh
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Address of Service:	Baunreagh House, Western Road, Via Cahir Road, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E91 T6K2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Vanessa Moriarty
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	18
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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).

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Description of service

Busy Bees Baunreagh is operated from a two-story, purpose renovated building in Baunreagh on the outskirts of Clonmel town. The premises consists of three early rooms, sanitary accommodation, an office, a sensory room and a kitchen. There are also secure outdoor play areas to the side and rear of the service. This full day care service provides care and education for children aged between 2 and 6 years old. Full day care is offered 07:30 to 18:15, Monday to Friday. A three-hour session funded under the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) for eligible children, which operates between 09:00 and 12:00. This is one of several services run by the registered provider in South Tipperary.

Staffing

There are currently 10 early years staff and 1 administration staff directly employed to work in the service. The registered provider is not present onsite daily, however is available to provide relief cover for staff absences as required. The compliance manager is also available to provide cover if needed. Staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Education at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications. The registered provider and the compliance manager were onsite to facilitate the 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 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.

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Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2) 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.

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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,
- (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) A person in charge was present on the day of inspection. From a review of the rosters a person in charge was present daily.

The staff files for 10 staff, 1 administration staff, 1 compliance 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.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for everyone 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.

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(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.

(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.

AM:

- Room 1: Three staff caring for nine children.
- Room 2: Three staff caring for nine children.
- Room 3: 3 staff caring for 11 children.

PM:

- Room 1: Three staff caring for seven children.
- Room 2: Three staff caring for five children.
- Room 3: Three staff caring for six children.

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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

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; encouraging conversations and providing any assistance if needed. On the morning of inspection the foods eaten at snack time in Room 1 were fruit, crackers, yogurts and rice cakes. Drinking water was available to the children throughout the day, should they become thirsty at any stage. The children enjoyed freedom of movement around the care rooms on the morning of inspection. The downstairs care rooms had direct access out on to two separate enclosed play areas. Outdoor play was promoted and included as part of the daily programme of activities. Staff reported that children played outside daily. There was also a sensory room that was available to all the children and used as needed. There was a rest area available where the children could rest and relax during the day. Floor beds were available to the children that needed a nap during their time in the service. Toilets were directly accessible off each of the classrooms allowing children to access them as they wished. Children who were able were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care.

Physical and material environment:

In each of the rooms, a variety of defined areas of interest were provided for the children to play with. These included construction areas, home corners, magnetic blocks, arts and crafts, a book corner, jigsaws and other age-appropriate toys. Low-level shelving provided children with access to a wide selection of activities. Children in the preschool rooms were observed to engage in snack time, story time, outdoor play and tabletop activities. The children's artwork was displayed on the pre-school room walls. Staff had helped the children create areas of familiarity in the classrooms to promote each child's identity and belonging such as personalised coat hooks, a family and birthday wall with photos of each child. Each pre-school room had a suitable rest area available to the children, these consisted of soft wipeable couches, cushions and a rug. Floor beds were available for children who required sleep. The outdoor play areas to the side and rear of the premise were secure. These consisted of astroturf, slides, flower beds, mud kitchens and messy play areas. Children used the outdoor space as often as

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they could weather permitting. A well-equipped sensory room was available to all the children and could be used as necessary.

Relationships and interactions around children.

In each of the classrooms the inspector observed staff having positive interactions with the children in their care. Staff engaged with the children in activities and conversations taking opportunities to listen actively to the children as they communicated their ideas and needs. The children demonstrated a comfortable familiarity with the staff caring for them in their rooms and in the service overall. Children were supported at times of conflict, with staff listening to the children, respecting their feelings and supporting them to understand and resolve minor conflicts with their friends.

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 premises was locked and needed to be opened from the inside. Staff were required to answer a call bell system to grant access to the building, therefore children could not exit the service unsupervised and unsupervised visitors could not enter. The outdoor play areas were secured to prevent children leaving. Cleaning agents and hazardous materials were stored inaccessible to children. Radiator covers were present to prevent injury to children. All blind cords were securely mounted out of reach of children. All upstairs windows were fitted with a safety latch to prevent children from falling. The staircase used by children was adequately lit and had a non-slip surface.

Infection control:

The service was clean and well maintained. 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. 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. Ventilation was present in the sanitary facilities. Staff were observed to clean the tables with disinfectant. A tissue station was available to the children in the classrooms. Pedal bins were in operation to avoid cross contamination. Perishable foods were

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stored in a fridge. Cleaning records were displayed in the care rooms and sanitary areas and were completed to date.

Administration of medication:

The service had a policy regarding the administration of medication to children while attending the service. Medication books were available with details of any medication to be given with signed parental consent and details of the administration of medication by the staff.

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.

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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 14th of April 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 2025. The smoke alarm system was last serviced on the same date.
- (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.