

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS199
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Little Bambinos Childcare
-------------------------	---------------------------

Address of Service:	Unit 1, Greenhills Centre, Greenhills Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D12 V2A8
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Louise Viti
-------------------------------------	-------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	31/07/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	14
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Inspection undertaken by:	S Quigley
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Little Bambinos Childcare is a privately owned service which provides full day, part time, and sessional care and education to children aged 2 to 6 years and also offers an early childhood care and education scheme. The service is registered to operate from 07:30am to 18:30pm each weekday and is located in an urban area of Walkinstown, Dublin 12. The service operates from a ground floor of a purposely adapted commercial unit and consists of two care rooms. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is available and located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs five staff members including the registered provider who works directly in the service. On the day of inspection, four adults were present including the registered provider.

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 area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ information and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (2)
- Documentation required under Regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of two adults who were employed in the service and who were not present when Regulation 9 was last assessed on the 17 May 2024.
- (a) (b) There were two references each available for the adults which had been appropriately verified.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all adults employed.
 - (d) Not applicable.
- (3)
- Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) had been carried out prior to each of the adult's commencing employment in the service.
- (4)
- Documentation reviewed evidenced that both adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 14 pre-school children attending the service being supervised by 4 adults during the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

Staff stated a healthy eating policy was available in the service. Morning snack was provided by the parents of the children in attendance. A hot meal was provided by the service from an external catering company and an afternoon snack was prepared onsite. The food observed was varied and nutritious. Mealtime was a relaxed and sociable occasion, and adults were observed sitting and eating with the children and engaging in conversation. A water station with drinking water was available to the children at all times during the inspection.

Children were encouraged and supported to be independent suitable to their age and stage of development including using the toilet independently, assisting with tasks in the classroom including preparing for meals, and cleaning up following mealtimes and play. The routine and play experiences in the service were observed to be child-led, and children were visibly calm, content, and engaged in their play throughout the inspection. The adults were observed to have a supportive role in the children's learning and play, involving themselves only when invited by a child or using prompts to extend learning and play.

There were suitable rest areas available to the children where children could avail of rest periods or quiet time away from the group as required. Younger children were provided with an opportunity to sleep on low level beds. Adults used soft tones and gentle, respectful language during all interactions which reflected in the calm, relaxed atmosphere of the service. The adults provided time for open-ended, exploratory conversations when prompted by the children and supported children during play in both individual and small group activities.

The children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive manner, evidenced by adults encouraging problem solving, using suggestions to resolve conflicts and encouraging the children to share their feelings with others. Children were alerted in advance of transitions which ensued smoothly to new activities such as tidy up time and lunch time.

The classrooms were divided into areas of interest enabling freedom to play and explore. Examples included construction, arts and crafts, home play areas, dress up, and tabletop activities. The interest areas provided a range of developmentally appropriate and valuable play experiences for the children attending the service. Materials were observed to be easily accessible to the children on low level shelving, facilitating their choice of play. Good personal

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

hygiene practices were implemented. The children showed an awareness of when to hand wash and did so before lunch and after using the toilet. Low level sink units were available to the children for handwashing.

An outdoor area was available to the rear of the premises. Children's artwork was displayed on the walls including paintings and drawings relating to the themes the children were learning about. A family wall featuring pictures the children had brought in from home of themselves, and family members was displayed, creating a positive link from the service to the child's home.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff, and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. The entrances into the service were appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised. There were no hazards identified in the indoor or outdoor play environments.

Infection Control:

Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the disposal of waste. Staff were observed to have good hand hygiene and supported children to wash hands at appropriate times. Cleaning schedules were in place, and the care rooms were observed to be clean. Staff followed infection control procedures to prevent cross contamination during nappy changing, in line with the service policy.

Administration of Medication:

There were procedures in place to safely administer and document the administration of medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the service during sleep time, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Low-level beds were available for sleep. The temperature of the room where children slept was maintained at the required temperature range.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape route was clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

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)

An adult trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available in the service at all times on the day of inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place in June 2026.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system had been serviced within the required timeframes.
- (4)
- The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations within the service.