

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY028
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Beez Kneez Childcare
-------------------------	----------------------

Address of Service:	Kilkerrin Road, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	F45 A262
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Andrea Connolly
-------------------------------------	-----------------

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

Date of Inspection:	29/07/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	31
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Friel
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

This privately owned pre-school is in the rural town of Glenamaddy in northeast County Galway. The service offers both an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care and sessional care programme from 09:00 to 12:00 and a full day care service from 07:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. While registered for children aged between 0 and 6 years of age, children currently attending are aged from 1 – 6 years. The service comprises of three care rooms namely- Baby/Toddlers, Junior Playschool and Senior Playschool, two dedicated sleep rooms, a kitchen where hot lunches are prepared, adult and children's sanitary areas and two nappy changing areas. Outdoor play areas are located at the front and rear of the service. A breakfast club is available in the morning from 07:00 to 08:50 and in the afternoon from 13:40 to 18:00.

Staffing

There is a total of 12 adults employed in the service including the registered provider, cook, kitchen assistant and 2 school age care staff.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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, deputy, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) The registered provider was the person in charge and a named person available to deputise as required.

(b) The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or deputy were on the premises while the early years children were present.

(c) A clear management structure was visible with staff photographs and qualifications visible in the reception area of the service.

Recruitment files and the staff roster indicated that there were three adults employed since the last inspection on 31 July 2025. Therefore these three files were reviewed. In addition, garda vetting for one existing adult whose garda vetting required renewal was also reviewed.

(2)

(a) Five of the six required written and validated references were from previous employers.

(b) The remaining one written and validated reference was from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for the three new adults. In addition, garda vetting renewal was available for one existing adult for whom it was required demonstrating compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.

(d) Curricula vitae on file indicated that no International police vetting was required as none of the three new adults had lived in another State for a period longer than six months as adults.

(4) Documentation was available which indicated that one of the three adults was employed to work directly with the early years children and had a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality. The two remaining adults employed to work in the kitchen did not require a childcare qualification.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the early years children while they were present in the service.
- (2) Documentary evidence in the form of the staff roster indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to. There were 5 adults working directly with 31 early years children in the morning and in the afternoon.
- (8)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that there were at least two adults on the premises while the children were attending the service.

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-

(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 food requirements for a full day care service- that at least two meals and two snacks, one of which must be a hot meal were provided by both the service and the parents/guardians. Staff stated that breakfast was served from 07:00 and consisted of oat and wheat-based cereals.
- Snack was served in the Junior Playschool room at 09:30 and in the Baby/Toddler care room at 14:10, they were noted to be healthy and nutritious and consisted of filled sandwiches, yogurts, cheese, bite sized pieces of fruit and rice cakes.
- The hot meal during the day of chicken curry and rice, cooked in the service, was observed being served in the Junior Playschool care room at 11:40, staff stated that children's individual food preferences were facilitated and children who did not want the lunch were provided with an alternative.
- Each care room had appropriate cutlery and crockery based on the age and stage of development of the children present.
- Children had access to water throughout the day in both the indoor and outdoor areas. Jugs with cups were visible and children had access to individual water bottles.
- Nappy changing was observed to be carried out regularly by staff. Adults carrying out nappy changes in the Baby/Toddler care room were observed to be sensitive to each child's needs. In conversation, staff stated that nappy changing was carried out at 09:45, 12 noon, 14:00, before the children go home and as required throughout the day.
- Children in the Junior Playschool care room were escorted to the sanitary area and encouraged to manage health practices independently including handwashing. Steps up were available to facilitate children handwashing and access the toilets independently.
- Rest/quiet areas were visible in each care room which were furnished with a variety of soft furnishings. These were located away from noisy activities. Examples included vinyl sofas, fabric cushions and mats under foot in the Baby/Toddler care room to cushion the impact of a fall.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Adult chairs were available in each care room and the Baby/Toddler care room had a sofa where the adults could sit to feed and comfort children.

Supporting Children's Relationships:

- Communication with parents in the Baby/Toddler care room was noted to be documented through a communication book which the staff were observed completing for each child during the day. It included information such as nappy changes, sleep and food intake.
- Staff members in the care rooms, who were supervising children playing in both the indoor and outdoor areas, were observed to work well as a team. They were heard, on several occasions, discussing children's individual needs throughout the day.
- Children's scrapbooks, which had been put together by staff, were labelled with each child's name and were available to view. Staff stated they document each child's individual interests and emergent curriculum throughout their time in the service.
- The adults from each care room were heard engaging positively with the children and the interactions were warm and caring; staff in the outdoor area were observed getting down to the children's level and speaking directly to them while asking and answering questions, while adults in the Baby/Toddler care room were observed comforting children by lifting them and giving them cuddles.

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:

- Internal doors including the kitchen and adult toilets were secured to prevent children from accessing unsafe areas.
- The main entrance door was secured by a buzzer system and the door was answered by a staff member making sure no unauthorised adults could enter the service.
- The outdoor areas were secured preventing unauthorised adults from entering the areas and children leaving the areas unsupervised; the front outdoor area was secured with wooden fencing and the rear

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

was secured with high concrete walls. Gates were secured with sliding devices placed out of reach of the children.

- Windows were fitted with restrictors to prevent children exiting from them.
- The six highchairs in the Baby/Toddler care room were fitted with safety harnesses preventing children from climbing out while sitting in the chair.
- Cleaning agents in the care rooms and sanitary areas were stored on high shelving out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- Staff from Baby/Toddler care room were observed to follow the service's nappy changing procedures. Disposable gloves and aprons were used for each nappy change and the mat and unit were sanitised after use preventing cross contamination.
- Windows in care rooms and sanitary areas were open providing a flow of fresh air into these areas, helping to reduce the spread of infection.
- Wash hand basins in use by the adults and children were supplied with thermostatically controlled hot water ranging in temperature between 34.3°C and 35°C. Sanitary facilities were also supplied with dispensing soap, paper towels for drying hands and pedal operated bins for the disposal of paper waste.
- Children's personal belongings were labelled and stored in individually labelled baskets.
- Cleaning checklists were available in each care room and the sanitary areas, these were noted to be completed and up to date ensuring the areas were kept clean and hygienic preventing the spread of germs.
- All mattresses in the 10 cots in the Baby/Toddlers designated sleep rooms were fitted with waterproof protectors ensuring that the mattress were kept dry.
- Handwashing was observed coming in from outdoor play, after toileting and before eating food helping to reduce the spread of infection.
- Perishable food was observed to be stored in the fridge in the Senior Playschool care room ensuring the food would not spoil.
- A microwave steriliser was in use for soothers preventing the spread of infection and cross contamination.

Administration of Medication:

- Temperature reducing medication was stored in its original container out of reach of the children. The expiry date was noted as 04/28.

Safe Sleep:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Blinds in the Baby/Toddler sleep rooms were secured with hooks placed out of reach of the children.
- Sleep room temperatures were recorded under 22° within the parameters of required temperatures of 18°C - 22° for children aged over 12 months.
- Cellular blankets were in use allowing the air to flow freely while the children were asleep.
- Cots were placed 50 centimetres apart making sure the children were kept safe.
- Ten-minute sleep checks were furnished to the inspector for each sleep area. These contained the required details including each child's sleep position, colour, breathing, room temperature and the adult who recorded the sleep check.
- All cots were fitted with mattresses which were within the recommended 2.5 centimetres of the cot sides making sure the children were kept safe while sleeping.
- Ambient lighting was available to ensure that staff could see the children while carrying out the sleep checks.
- Sleep beds were available for children under 2 and stackable beds were available for children over 2 years making sure that the correct sleep equipment was in place should it be required.

Fire Safety:

- All fire exits were unobstructed enabling the safe evacuation of the children and adults in the event of an emergency.
- In date fire extinguishers were secured to the walls making sure they were accessible in the event they were required.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1) Certificates were available and the staff roster evidenced that a person trained as a First Aid Responder was available while the early years children were on the premises.
- (2)
- (a) (b) The first aid boxes were easily accessible to the adults in the care rooms and in the reception area of the service while the children were in attendance. There were ample in date supplies of first aid equipment available.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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 of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last fire drill was conducted on the 22 July 2026 and previous drills were noted to have been carried out monthly on 3 July 2026 and 7 May 2026.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment in the premises which were recorded as 23 June 2026. The fire and smoke alarms were noted to have been serviced on the 01 July 2026.
- (2)
- (c) The fire drills, firefighting and smoke alarm certificates were available for review on the premises.
- (4) Notices were displayed on the walls of the fire action procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency in the service.