

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015KE024 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Busy Fingers Creche |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Corbally, Newbridge, Co. Kildare |
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|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | W12 X579 |
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|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Mary Burke |
|-------------------------------------|------------|

|                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|

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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 22/07/2026 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|-----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 103 | PM | 96 |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|----|----|

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|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | F Carty and R Flynn                                                   |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | Early Years Inspectors                                                |

### 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 Fingers Crèche is a privately owned childcare facility. The service is registered to accommodate children aged 0 to 6 years. An option of sessional, part time and full day care is available. Sessions are provided from 9.00am to 12.00pm daily, over a 38-week annual period, in conjunction with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service is open from 7.00am to 6.00pm.

The service is located in a rural area of Newbridge, Co Kildare and operates from a purpose build premises. The service comprises of twelve care rooms, three designated sleep rooms and four separate outdoor areas. On the days of inspection nine rooms were open to preschool children.

### Staffing

There are currently 40 staff employed by the service including the registered provider, a manager and deputy, two cooks and 34 adults who work directly with the children. Present on the days of the inspection were the manager, deputy, two cooks and 24 adults working with the preschool children and 5 adults working with the school age children. The registered provider works in the service managing oversight of the service but was not present on the day of 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

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This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels

Regulation 15 – Record in relation to a preschool child

Regulation 19 – Health, welfare and development of the child

Regulation 23 – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire safety

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 and 23. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the following rooms:

Baby 2 room

Baby 3 room

Baby 4 room

Toddler 1 room

Toddler 2 room

ECCE 1 Room

ECCE 2 Room

ECCE 3 room

Regulation 15 (1) a sample 16 records from the Baby 4 room, Toddler 1 room and ECCE 2 room were reviewed.

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.

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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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

*(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.*

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### Compliance Information

Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that 10 adults commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

- (2)
- (a)(b) Ten references were available from a past employer and nine were available from a reputable source for the newly recruited adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed and available for all staff employed in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International Police vetting was required and available for six adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months.
- (4) Records were available evidencing that ten staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held evidence of the required qualification or a letter from the Minister deemed equivalent.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)(b)
- One reference in respect of one adult was not accepted as it was not from a past employer or a suitable reputable source.
- (3)
- The registered provider did not take appropriate measures to ensure that all adults were suitable to work in an early years' service prior to their commencement as follows:
- International Police vetting in respect of two adults had not been received or reviewed prior to the adults commencing work in the service.
  - One reference for one adult had not been verified prior to the adult commencing work in the service.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(a)(b)
- The reference has been updated with a new validated reference on the 23rd July 2026. We were not aware that if you are employed by a friend the reference did not suffice, now that this had been brought to our attention, it will not happen again.
- (3) We have noted to ensure that all international garda vetting is translated.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)(a)(b) Additional reference submitted.
- (3) Translated international Police Vetting submitted.

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### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting evidence were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 9.

### 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 children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 103 children attending the service being supervised by 26 adults on the morning of the inspection.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*

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- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

A sample of 16 records were reviewed. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a) to (i) of the above regulation for all the records reviewed.

### 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

(1)(b)

Children were observed to be relaxed and appeared happy and settled in their surroundings throughout the inspection. Staff provided support and encouragement, fostering children's independence and self-help skills, helping them during play and to take off their clothing when coming in from the garden and going to sleep. The service provided all meals and snacks to the children, and a hot meal of spaghetti with lentil tomato sauce was provided at lunch time. Younger children wore bibs during meals to protect their clothing. Drinking water was available at all times.

Nappies were changed regularly and when soiled. Self-feeding was encouraged and staff sat with children during mealtimes, providing support for any children requiring assistance. Staff were observed to promote healthy hygiene practices for children. For example, children were encouraged to wash their hands after outdoor play, before and after meals, after nappy changing and using the toilet.

Warm positive relationships were evident between staff and children. The inspectors observed that the service takes a child centred approach to children's care and education, allowing children time and space to learn at their

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own pace. Staff spoke to children in calm gentle tones, using eye contact and dropping to their level in a respectful manner. Children's language development was supported through one to one and group discussions, songs and storytelling which was observed during the inspection.

Staff explained the service provides daily updates to parents on the activities children are participating in through an online software application. Informal communication was observed at drop off.

Children who required sleep were placed to sleep in individual cots or beds when they displayed signs of tiredness and also at designated sleep times. The lighting was dimmed in rooms where children slept, and staff were observed to provide comfort and reassurance during sleep time.

The outdoor environments supported children's physical development and provided opportunity for safe risky and challenging play. All children were observed to access the outdoor area on the day of inspection and were dressed appropriately to the weather.

### 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 entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- Cleaning agents and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.

##### Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children and was stored separately when not in use. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly or as required.
- All cot mattresses in use had waterproof covers.
- Handwashing was observed before meals, after using the toilet and following nappy changes and after outdoor play.

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### Administration of Medication:

- There was a documented care plan available for two children attending the service who required emergency medication. Staff working in the ECCE 2 room with the children were aware of the treatment plan and demonstrated knowledge of the procedures to follow if the medication was required.
- Staff demonstrated, through discussion, that they were familiar with the procedures and practices in place for the administration of medication in line with the services policy on medication administration.

### Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.
- An adult remained in the room at all times where children were sleeping on low beds.
- The sleep room temperatures were maintained within the required temperature ranges.

### Fire Safety:

- All fire exits were clear of obstruction.
- Regular fire drills took place in the service, staff stated that they occur monthly.
- The fire assembly point was located at the front of the service in the carpark.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. A piece of wooden equipment in the Dome Garden was broken exposing sharp edges which posed a risk to the children.
2. In the Baby 4 room children were placed in highchairs to eat their meals. The highchairs did not contain five point harnesses which posed a risk to the children.

#### Infection Control:

3. Staff stated that children received Powdered infant formula in bottles during the day. These bottles had not been pre-prepared by the parents. The formula was stored separately and the staff made up the bottles on site. This poses a risk of gastrointestinal illness to the child due to the storage of the formula. This practice is not recommended by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland guidance note 22 which states that it is not recommended that child day-care facilities prepare prepared infant formula for the children in their care.
4. The handwashing practices observed on inspection were ineffective for infection control as follows:
  - Children's hands in baby room 4 were not washed following nappy change. This poses a risk of cross contamination.

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- Children were observed accessing the upstairs sanitary accommodation and were observed to not wash their hands after using the toilet despite staff supervising children during this time.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

- The wooden piece of equipment was removed on the evening of the inspection. We will be more vigilant when carrying out risk assessments.
- We are currently looking at new highchairs in all rooms that are stackable for storage and had the 5 point harness.

##### Infection Control:

- Our policy is we do not make up formula bottles throughout the day. One parent had asked a staff member to make up the bottle. An email has since gone out reminding parents we do not make up bottles in the creche.
- Staff were again shown our nappy changing procedure video and asked to refresh themselves on our nappy changing policy which is on display in the nappy changing area.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

- Photo of play equipment removed from area.
- No supporting evidence submitted.

##### Infection Control:

- Copy of email sent to parents submitted.
- Nappy changing policy submitted.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting evidence were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23.

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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)**

A written record was available of monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was recorded on 23 June 2026.

**(b)**

Records were kept of the maintenance of the firefighting equipment which was last serviced on 05 June 2026. The smoke alarm system in the premises was last serviced on 12 June 2026.

**(4)**

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed throughout the service.