

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD039
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Name of Service:	H & H Ladybird Daycare Limited
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Address of Service:	Moonvoy, Tramore, Co. Waterford
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Eircode:	X91 E0Y7
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Name of Registered Provider:	Helen Power
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	21
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Community Care Office, Cork Road, Waterford City X91VX09
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Bradshaw
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

The service is based on the outskirts of Tramore town. It is a purposely built premises at the side of the registered provider's home. There are three care rooms – the baby room, the toddler room and the preschool room. The baby room and toddler room each have a sleeping room adjacent to them. Each room has a sanitary area for toileting and nappy changing. There are two separate outdoor spaces adjacent to the building. The service is registered to care for up to 38 children aged 0 to 6 years of age. It operates from 07:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday. The service also operates a school-age service.

Staffing

The service employs 13 staff members including the registered provider. On the day of the inspection, 10 staff were working directly with 24 preschool children. The registered provider was rostered to cover breaks and was available for additional support if required.

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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment;

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels;

Regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-School Child;

Regulation 16 – Record in Relation to Pre-school Service;

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Regulation 22 – Food and Drink;

Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child;

Regulation 25 – First Aid;

Regulation 27 – Supervision.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-School Child and Regulation 16 – Record in Relation to a Pre-School Service. The scope of the inspection included the Baby room and the Toddler Room and did not include the Preschool room

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, 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*
- (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)(b)(c) The service had a designated person in charge and a person to deputise if required. There was a clear management structure with a notice with the name of the person in charge and the deputy person in charge available to the inspector.

(2) Following a review of information available on the day and a discussion with the person in charge, it was determined that seven staff had been employed since the last inspection. These staff files were reviewed:

(a)(b) The required references were available to the inspector.

(c) Garda vetting was available. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.

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(4) Documents available demonstrated that all staff working with children had achieved a least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualification Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) Police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside the jurisdiction for six months or more. The registered provider must obtain and review vetting for this person before their return to work in September.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that the required police vetting has been applied for. This staff member is not due to return to work until September 2026 and will not work directly with children until the police vetting is available. In future all potential staff will be required to have police vetting if they lived outside the jurisdiction for six months or more.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence that police vetting has been applied for was submitted.

Summary Comment

The action submitted by the registered provider has not yet addressed the non-compliance as the police vetting process has not yet concluded. The registered provider must provide evidence of vetting to the inspectorate once received.

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.

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Compliance Information

(1)(2) During the inspection, there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children. There were 24 children being cared for by 9 staff. Staff were rostered to be available to cover lunches and breaks throughout the day. The person in charge was available for support if required.

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;*
- (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 12 children's enrolment forms completed by parents was reviewed as part of the inspection process. These were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

Information required under parts (a) to (k) were available on the day of the inspection. This information was included in the staff files, the services statement of purpose and function, attendance record and the children records.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service Healthy Eating policy requires parents to supply the food for their children during the day. The policy included suggestions of healthy eating options and suggestions. Children were noted to have yogurts, chopped fruits, crackers rice cakes and bread rolls for their snacks at 10.30am. The children in the Toddler room were seated at low tables and had their dinner in an unhurried environment that promoted social interaction with their peers. Staff in the baby room were noted to engage with the young children as they waited for their dinner to be served. Staff in this room described how the parents supply delicious homemade dinners for their children. All children had bottles of water which were accessible throughout the day. Staff were observed to prompt the children to get their water bottles during the day.

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 doors were secured to prevent unauthorised access or exit from the building.
- The outdoor area was secure with the gates locked.
- Children's arrival and departure was recorded in a timely manner on an online application.
- Cleaning products were stored on high shelving and away from children's reach.
- Emergency exits were clear and unobstructed.
- Accident and incident reports were recorded. The registered provider stated that management complete monthly checks on these forms to ensure they have been completed correctly.
- Perishable food is stored in the fridges in each room. Fridge temperatures were recorded twice daily and a written record of these kept.

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Infection Control:

- Cots and low beds were placed 50cm apart to reduce the risk of cross infection.
- Warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels were available for children and staff when washing their hands. Children were encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after playing in the garden.
- Creams, wipes, and packets of nappies were all labelled for each individual child.
- Up to date cleaning records were displayed in each area of the service.

Administration of Medication:

- Of the 12 records reviewed the required information and signatures were available.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleeping children were checked every 10 minutes as per the service's Safe Sleep policy.

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) The registered provider has ensured that a person trained as a first aid responder was available to the children at all times. Four staff members had up to date First Aid Responder training.
- (2) (a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the preschool room.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The service has ensured that all children were appropriately supervised at all times throughout the inspection. All staff were suitably qualified, and experienced. The child staff ratios exceeded the requirements for care needed under the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

The layout of equipment and furniture in the children's rooms allowed staff to monitor children's activities during the day. Staff were observed to place themselves around the rooms where they could see and hear the children.

For example, one staff member in the baby room was observed to sit on the floor with children who were engaged playing with interactive toys. This staff was noted to look around the room and check in with another child who was pulling themselves up see if they felt they required help.

The toilet facilities were adjacent to the childcare rooms and were for the sole use of the children. In the Toddler room staff described how they support children who were being potty trained. Staff were noted to verbally check on children to see if they required help, this gave the children the autonomy for self-care while staff maintained the necessary supervision.

In the garden staff placed themselves to be available to the children and engaged in their play whilst discussing the plan for the rest of the day to ensure they all had the same information.