

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC067
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bright Beginnings
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	25 The Crescent, Broadale, Douglas, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T12 PXD2
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mairéad Davis
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/01/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	3
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurranabraher, Cork
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S O'Brien
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Bright Beginnings is a privately owned service, that provides the Early Childhood Care and Education sessional care scheme (ECCE) to children aged between two and six years. The service is located on the ground floor of a two-storey semi-detached building situated within a residential area in the suburbs of Cork city. The service operates a morning and afternoon session between 9am to 12pm and 12pm to 3pm, Monday to Friday for thirty-eight weeks of the year. The service has two care rooms named the Main room and the Log cabin which is to the rear of the main building along with an outdoor area. A designated sanitary facility is available to the children and staff on the ground floor.

### Staffing

There are four staff members employed to work directly with the children 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 and safety. 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 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.

### Additional Information

On 15 January 2025, an Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of the children. A radiator in the Log Cabin care room had a surface temperature of 61°C.

On 16 January 2025, the registered provider outlined the steps taken to mitigate the risk.

### 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) The registered provider had a staff member available to deputise in their absence from the service.
- (b) The named person in charge was in the service during the hours of operation.
- (c) All staff members were aware of their roles and responsibilities and a clear management structure was in place.

(2)

Four staff members are employed in the service and all four files were reviewed.

- (a) Five of the eight references were available from a past employer and were validated.

- (b) Three of the eight references were available from a reputable source and were validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all four staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) A Police vetting disclosure was available for one staff member who had lived outside a state for longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) All four staff held a relevant qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education from a level 5 to level 6 on the national qualifications framework or a qualification deemed by the minister to equivalent.

### 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) There were adequate staff available to care for the preschool children in attendance in the service
- (3) On arrival, there were twenty preschool children aged between two years six months and five years of age being cared for by three adults. In the afternoon session, there were three children being cared for by three staff.

The roster indicated the staff working in the care rooms and there were sufficient staff available to cover staff breaks, therefore ensuring the minimum adult to child ratio was being adhered to at all times.

## 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 twelve children’s records were assessed and all forms were completed and contained the information outlined from (a) to (i).

### 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:*

- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

The following records were reviewed on inspection:

- (i) A staff roster was available and reviewed.
- (k) A sample of six accident and incident records for children who attended the service were reviewed and completed, containing all relevant information in relation to any accident or incident that had occurred.

### 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

- Handwashing was observed after painting and before snack time. Children were supported when needed and staff encouraged independence.
- Individual care plans were available for the children who required them. The staff were aware of the specific needs of each child and ensured their care needs were being met. Activities outlined in their care plans were available to the children to support their development such as sensory play.
- Food and drinks were provided by the children's parents and guardians. Staff supported the children opening their lunches and sat with them. Plates and placemats were available to the children at snack times.

- Children were observed freely moving around the room and having choice in what activities they would like to participate in.

## Supporting Relationships

- Staff and children were observed having good interactions with each other.
- Staff were observed communicating with the children at their level and in a respectful manner.
- Family photo frames were in the care room and were easily accessible to the children to support their sense of belonging.
- Staff made mealtimes a comfortable and relaxed experience for the children. Children were given time to enjoy their food and chat with the other children.
- It was observed that there was a strong sense of teamwork between the staff and registered provider by working together during activities and communicating with each other.
- The staff communicates with the parents and guardians via an electronic application.
- Staff supported transition periods throughout the session by using an egg timer to alert the children when these were about to occur.
- Visual cues were provided in the room to support children.

### 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:

- All toys and equipment observed were in good condition.
- All flexes and cables observed were out of reach of children.
- On the day of inspection, it was observed food such as grapes were appropriately cut to minimise risk to the children.
- The gate in the outdoor area was closed at all times during the operation of the service on the day of inspection.

##### Infection Control:

- The care rooms appeared clean, and tables were cleaned with appropriate disinfectant spray after painting and before snack.
- The care rooms and sanitary area were naturally ventilated through open windows.
- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available to the staff and children. The water temperature recorded in the hand basin in the sanitary area was 27.5°C.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Staff were not observed administering medication on the day of inspection.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were clear and unobstructed.

##### Outing:

- The registered provider stated that the service does carry out outings such as walks in the community. Staff were aware of the procedures in relation to outings.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. A radiator that was easily accessible to children in the log cabin room had a surface temperature of 61°C at 10:50am. An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider on day of inspection. It is acknowledged when the inspector informed the registered provider of the risk to children, the heating system

was turned off and children were kept away from that area of the care room. At 11am, the inspector recorded a surface temperature of 34°C.

2. The main external door to the service was not appropriately secured when the inspector arrived at the service. This posed a risk as a child could exit the service unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service was not restricted. Signage was in place in the service to remind staff to secure the door, however this was ineffective as the door was unsecured. This issue was identified on the last inspection 04 May 2022. The registered provider stated in their corrective and preventive action response that the main external door would be secured as well as the hallway door that was situated between the sanitary area/care room and the main external door, however this was not the case on this inspection.

3. A blind cord was not secured in the main care room and was accessible to the children if they climbed on furniture. This posed a risk of strangulation to the children. It is acknowledged when the inspector informed the registered provider the staff acted to secure the cord out of reach of children.

### **Infection Control:**

4. Perishable foods such as yoghurts, meat and cheese sandwiches from the children's lunches were not placed in a refrigerator. This posed a risk to the children.

### **Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

#### **Corrective & Preventive Action**

#### **General Safety:**

1. The radiator switch fuse has been removed to ensure the heater on the wall cannot be turned on. The temperature in the room is sufficient with one heater operating in the care room.
2. A hook lock has been installed on the door and staff will check this after every drop off and collection. The service will keep a record of checks carried out on the door on a daily basis.
3. The blind cord has been fixed. The staff will complete daily checks.

#### **Infection Control:**

4. Perishable lunches will be put into the fridge every morning. Staff will check lunches and ensure that perishable lunches are placed in the refrigerator.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence of the radiator switch was submitted to the inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence of the hook lock was submitted to the inspectorate.
3. The inspector assessed the blind cord on the day of inspection, once corrective action had taken place.

#### Infection Control:

4. Photographic evidence of the refrigerator for storing perishable lunches was submitted to the inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions, and the evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified have been adequately addressed.

## 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 and another staff member held a current certification in first aid response (FAR). The registered provider ensured that there was a trained staff member in first aid available at all times while the service was in operation as recorded on the staff roster. The service met the requirement to have at least one staff member suitably trained with a current FAR certification on the premises while the service is in operation.
- (2) (a) (b) There was a sufficiently stocked first aid box available in the service which was stored out of reach to children under lock and key. At all times during the inspection, first aid supplies were accessible to adults if a child may require treatment.

### 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) The registered provider ensured that fire drills took place on a monthly basis. Records accessed showed the last fire drill took place on 02 December 2024 and detailed the number of children and staff that were in attendance.
  - (b) A maintenance record was available for the firefighting equipment within the service and an annual service had taken place on 11 November 2024.
- (4) Fire evacuation notices was placed clearly in the care room for the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

The service was insured to operate a morning and afternoon sessional care service and for a maximum number of twenty-four children at any one time. The insurance policy was dated from 28 November 2024 to 27 November 2025.