

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC425		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Muin Childcare Bandon		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Kilbrogan, Bandon, Co. Cork		
<b>Eircode:</b>	P72 KX97		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Clodagh Barrett, Kate Gaffney		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional,		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/07/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	21	PM 13
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Department, Child & Family Agency, Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co Cork P81 PD78		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Ms. O'Reilly		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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		

### Description of service

Muin Childcare Bandon is a privately owned full day care service that first opened under the current ownership in September 2024. The service is registered to cater for children from 1 to 6 years offering a choice of sessional, part time or full day care service and for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service is registered to operate from 08:00 18:00 hours each day Monday to Friday. It comprises of a detached, purpose-built single storey building in a residential area of Bandon town in Co Cork. The premise has a spacious entrance hall, three playrooms, sensory room, adequate number of adult and children's toilets and nappy changing units, a separate designated sleep room, a staff kitchen/dining area and an outdoor area beside the premise.

### Staffing

At time of unannounced inspection, there were 5 of the 7 staff involved in the direct care of the children who attend. The two named registered providers are not service based but on day of inspection one registered provider was present on the inspectors arrival to the service. All staff who work with the children hold a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education 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/ premises and facilities. 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.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of one of the named registered providers, 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

*(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*

*(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) There was a person in charge and a named deputy to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge and one of the named registered providers was present when the inspector arrived at the premise on the day of the unannounced inspection and both were present throughout the inspection process.
- (2)
- Documentation was assessed in relation to the requirements of Regulation 9 for 9 adults. This included the two named registered providers.
- (a) There were twelve validated references on file from past employers.
- (b) There were six validated references available from sources other than previous employers.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 9 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Three police vetting records were available on file for three of the adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more, while over the age of 18 years.
- (4)
- The adults who worked directly with the children all hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, or an equivalent qualification, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications. One of the two named registered providers is not directly involved in the direct care of children and therefore does not require a childcare qualification.

## 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)

On the day of the inspection there were two of the three rooms in operation.

There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in each room.

(2) The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained in the following rooms.

#### Happy Room

There were 6 children aged between 1 and 2 years present on a part time and full day care basis with 2 adults in attendance.

#### Little Monkeys and Little Einsteins Room

There was a mix of age groups in this room. There was 1 child aged between 1 and 2 years, there were 5 children aged between 2 and 3 years and 5 children aged between 3 and 4 years. There were 4 children present attending a summer camp for the week that were aged between 4 and 6 years. There were 2 to 3 adults in attendance.

There were 7 children present in the afternoon with 2 adults in attendance

#### Adventures Room

Not in operation at time of inspection, as the inspection took place during the summer holiday period

(8)

(a) At least two adults were present at all times throughout the inspection period.

### 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) to (i)

A sample of 12 of the child registration forms were reviewed. It was found that the child registration form template that the service was using did not contain all of the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (a) to (i) inclusive.

The registration form template did not contain the following:

- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service
- (c) no space to record the date on which the child ceased to attend the service
- (f) details of any 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.

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

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The service submitted an amended child registration form template which contained the information required under Regulation 15 (1)(a) to (i)

**Supporting documentation submitted**

As above

**Summary Comment**

The Requirement for Regulation 15 has been met.

**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:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (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**

(h) There was role book to record the children’s attendance on a daily basis. The records indicated the arrival and departure time of each child on a daily basis in the service.

(i) There was a weekly staff roster that evidenced the time of arrival and departure of the staff in the service each day.

(k) There was one Accident and Incident book for the service. A sample of the accidents and incidents records on file were reviewed. All accidents and incidents records were signed by the parent and staff members. The parent/guardian received a duplicated signed copy at collection time following the accident /incident pertaining to their child.

**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:

- The children in the Happy room followed a flexible timetable and were offered food and drink according to their daily routines. They were gently placed in low wooden chairs, secured and assisted with feeding in an unhurried and sociable manner.
- It was observed that children's cues for tiredness were addressed. Children were prepared for sleep in a kind and caring manner; tight clothing was removed, and soothers and comfort blankets offered as required in the Happy room. The requirement for sleep was child led in the Happy room and all children were observed sleeping in standard cots with safety mattresses in the sleep room. The older children were observed sleeping on stacking beds in the playroom (Adventures Room) not in use on day of inspection.
- The adults were observed to demonstrate patience and kindness in their interactions with the children, as was noted when the children's efforts were readily acknowledged and when children were calmly assisted to resolve minor conflicts.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. The staff members were observed to supervise and assist where required each of the children when hand washing and hand drying, and the children were supported and encouraged prior to snack and mealtimes, after toileting nappy changing and outdoor play.
- Child height hooks and storage shelving was available to encourage independent dressing and organisation of the older children's personal belongings.
- Drinking water was accessible to the children within the care rooms outside of allocated mealtimes.
- There was adequate space in the care rooms to accommodate a variety of play activities. A mixture of adult led play and child directed play was facilitated in each room and during outdoor play. The children were observed playing outdoors in group and singular play closely supervised by staff.

#### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The two rooms in operation were child friendly, bright, laid out with materials largely accessible to the children.
- There were an adequate number of age-appropriate child sized tables and chairs available in each playroom.

- The Happy room had age-appropriate equipment such as, a selection of books, shape sorters, activity centres, pull along toys, handheld toys for example farm and zoo animals, sound making materials and construction blocks.
- The room for the older children (Little Monkeys and Little Einsteins Room) had interest areas that included, a wide range of tabletop activities and games to encourage companionable interaction. There were cars and trucks, different sized blocks and a variety of art and craft materials. There was a fine motor skills area, a home corner suitably furnished with dolls, buggies, dress up and small utensils to prompt imagination and pretend play.
- Play materials in general were found to be in a good state of repair with no pinch points or sharp edges.
- There was a soft seating area in the playrooms and staff informed me that this area allowed a child to opt out of play activities and relax if they so wished.
- Walls of the care rooms were decorated with birthday charts, family photographs and posters and the children's arts and crafts that included the summer season.
- The designated outdoor play area had swings and climbing frame with slide to encourage the children to master gross motor skill play. There was a stone surface where there were handheld trucks and lorries and an earth surface for digging for imaginative and pretend play for the children. There was a sound bar, playhouse and wooden bench seat and push toys.

### 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

- All of the snacks and meals observed being eaten on the day were healthy, sufficient and nutritious such as sandwiches, crackers, cheese, yogurts and different fruits at the mid-morning snack.
- The children had access to their own labelled water bottles so that they could help themselves to drinks when they were thirsty.
- The children were provided with appropriate cutlery and crockery at snack and mealtimes.
- The children appeared to enjoy the nutritious food provided by their parents/guardians and were afforded ample time to eat and drink at a relaxed pace.

## 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:

- Cleaning agents were stored out of the children's reach.
- The first aid box was appropriately stored and inaccessible to children.
- The staff members bags and belonging were stored out of reach of the children.
- Emergency fire exit doors were unobstructed.
- The windows at adult height were opened in the playrooms and nappy changing area. Mechanical ventilation was in place in the adult and children's toilet facilities.

##### Infection Control:

- There was liquid soap and wall mounted paper towel dispensers were in place in the service. Handwashing by the children was observed before mid-morning snack and lunch time meal and after using the toilet and following outdoor play.
- The adults and children had access to sufficient number of toilets, nappy changing and wash hand basins in the service.
- On the inspectors arrival to the service, it was noted there was no thermostatically controlled hot water in the wash hand basins in the children's toilets and nappy changing facilities. The registered provider called a plumber. He called to the service and rectified the plumbing issue at time of inspection. To reduce the risk of cross infection, thermostatically controlled hot water should be available at all times while the service is in operation.
- The children nappy changing toiletries were situated within labelled individual baskets in the nappy changing room.
- Personal waste including used tissues, and all cleaning waste was appropriately disposed of in foot operated pedal bins in the service. Non-contact bins were available for the storage of used nappies.
- In general, the playrooms, toilets and nappy changing facilities in the service were visibly clean on day of inspection. There were weekly cleaning schedules on display.

### Safe Sleep:

- There was a designated sleep room in the service. There were standard cots with correct fitting mattresses. Each of the mattresses was fitted with a waterproof mattress cover. It was observed that sleeping children had ten-minute physical observations conducted, recording position, colour and breathing of the child.
- There were stackable beds available for the children over the age of 2 years that required a sleep. They were accommodated in the Adventures room (not in operation) on day of inspection.
- Individual clean linen was available for each sleep equipment. There was an adequate distance observed between each cot and stacking bed when children were asleep in the sleep room and in the Adventures room that was converted into a sleep room after lunch at time of inspection.

### 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) There were four adults working in the service that had a current certified First Aid Responder certificate (FAR) and two of the four adults were present on day of inspection.

(2) (a) There was a sufficiently stocked first aid box available in the service, which was safely stored out of reach of children.

(b) At all times when the service was in operation, first aid supplies were accessible to the adults if in the event that 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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 23 June 2025
  - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment was last serviced in October 2024. The emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced in May 25.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service was insured, with insurance for 49 children valid until the 27 March 2026. The records detailed the category of service covered full day care, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.