

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015CE126

Name of Service Spraoi Miltown Malbay and District Community Playgroup Ltd.

Address of Service: Ballard Road, Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare, V95 CD88

Email Address: malbayspraoi@eircom.net

Name of Registered Provider: Brian Flynn

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 80 to 85.

Proposed Number of Children: 85

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in number of children that can be accommodated to 85.

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated to 85.

Date of Inspection: 1 5 0 7 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: J Hayes

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Ennis Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare. V95TY4E

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 85 Children
Date of Registration	14 th October 2025

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Spraoi Miltown Malbay and District Community Playgroup Ltd was established in 2008 as a full day, part time and sessional care service. It is registered to cater for 80 children ranging in age from birth to 6 years. The service operates Monday to Friday from 08:00 am to 17:30 pm. The premises is located in a rural setting on the outskirts of Miltown Malbay village.
Premises	The service is a purpose-built childcare facility. This building is a single storey structure with childcare provided in five playrooms. Children have access to two separate sleep rooms. A kitchen and dining area are also available on the premises. An enclosed outdoor play area is located at the rear and side of the premises and is divided into separate areas for the different age groups of children attending.
Staffing	The registered provider is the chairperson of the management committee for the service. The service employs eighteen adults which include a service manager and an assistant manager.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity; completeness; and compliance with</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the assistant manager, 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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge of operating the service and a named person available who is able to deputise if required.

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.

Requirement met:

(1) The service has committed to ensuring that there are an adequate number of adults working directly with the children daily. It is proposed that an additional adult to work directly with the children, will be employed in the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

Requirement met:

(1)(a) There are adequate facilities for the children to play indoors.

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The care room is of adequate size to accommodate tables and chairs for each child. Areas of interest are set up which would facilitate independent play in small or large groups. Toys and resources are at a height that is accessible to all children.

(b) There is a quiet area in the room that can facilitate time away from the main play area but can be easily supervised by the staff. This area contained a floor mat, soft seating and cushions for comfort.

(3) The facilities for play outside are directly adjacent to the playroom and can be accessed via a door from this room. This area is secured to the rear of the building and has an enclosed space for all weather use. Additional outdoor play space is available in the garden area to the side of the service. A selection of sensory play and messy play activities are provided in the enclosed space and ride on toys, scooters, bicycles and balls are available for use in the outdoor area.

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.

Requirement met:

The service has a healthy eating policy which is shared with parents, and all food is provided by the parents/guardians of the children attending the service.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement in relation to this regulation was met.

- A fridge is provided in the kitchen area for the safe storage of perishable food items contained in children’s lunches.
- There is access to hot water, liquid hand soap and to paper towels at each of the children’s wash hand basins.
- There are lidded pedal operated bins available for the disposal of the used paper towels in the toilets and in the care room.
- There are restricted opening devices at low level windows.
- Cleaning agents are stored in a locked area out of the reach of children.
- The dedicated outdoor play area is appropriately secured to prevent a child leaving the area unattended or prevent unauthorised access to the area.
- The toys and equipment are free from pinch and crush points.
- The high shelving units in the care rooms are secured to the walls.
- There are no ponds, pits or other hazardous areas in the outdoor area.
- The fire exit doors are unobstructed.
- The hot water in the wash hand basins used by the children was recorded at a safe temperature ranging from 35.8°C to 38.2°C.

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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.

Requirement met:

- (1) There are three adults in the service with current certification in First Aid Responder training.
- (2)(a)
A suitably equipped first aid box is stored in the main office in the service. The adults working in the service are familiar with the location of the first aid box.
- (b)
The first aid box is available for use by the adults if its contents were required at any time.

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.

Requirement met:

- (1)(a)
Records are available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills are carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place in June 2025.
- (b)
Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service are available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system.
- (4)
Fire action notices are displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The service has adequate insurance for 85 children attending. The current insurance certificate is valid from 28 March 2025 to 27 March 2026.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

(a) The service is located in a purpose built premises. The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure with no visible defects.

(b) The doors to the service are secured which ensured that no child could leave the service and no unauthorised person could gain access to the premises. The designated outdoor space is secured by a high level railing.

(c) Natural and artificial lighting is provided in the care rooms. The artificial lighting is provided by covered fluorescent lights. A service record for the heating system was available which indicated the most recent service was carried out in April 2025. The care room temperature on inspection was recorded ranging from 19.7°C to 21.6°C which is within the appropriate limits. This would afford the children comfort when playing and doing activities. Natural ventilation is provided through openable windows throughout.

(d) The premises is clean, well maintained and appears to be in a good state of repair.

(e) The service is equipped with an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins for the proposed number of toilet trained children and has two toilets and wash hand basins which is sufficient for the proposed maximum of 16 adults working in the service at any one time.

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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

Requirement met:

- (1) The registered provider has ensured adequate clear floor space is available to the children attending for their work, play and movement.
- (2) The space available in Pre-school room 1 measured 54m² which was sufficient space to accommodate the proposed 24 children to attend this room on a sessional basis. The space available in Pre-school room 2 measured 66m² which was sufficient space to accommodate the proposed 24 children to attend this room on a sessional basis. There is sufficient space in the service to accommodate an increase in number of children attending from 80 to 85.