

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN003
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Name of Service:	Angel's Nest Creche and Playgroup
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Address of Service:	Yew Park, Virginia, Virginia, Co. Cavan
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Eircode:	A82 W089
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Name of Registered Provider:	Cynthia McAuley
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	15/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	29
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham & D Murray
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable.
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Description of service

Angels Nest Crèche and Playgroup is an established childcare facility within the local community. The service provides full day, part- time day care, sessional and school aged childcare and education for children from 1 year to 6 years. The service operates from 8.00am-18.00pm each weekday. The service is a purpose- built two story childcare facility. There are 6 care rooms, nappy changing area, sanitary facilities and kitchen. The service has an outdoor play area.

Staffing

In total thirteen staff members are employed in the service, this includes the manager, assistant manager, a supervisor, 8 childcare staff, a cook and a cleaner. On the day of inspection there was 12 staff members present. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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,*
- (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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) (a)&(b) Twenty six validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for 13 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for 1 staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) On the morning of the inspection there was 10 staff members providing direct care to children which included a manager, assistant manager and supervisor. Seven childcare staff work directly with the 29 pre- children attending the service and two staff worked with the school aged children. The manager was also available to provide assistance as needed.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at capacity:

The **Baby room** had 2 staff members with 3 children ranging in age from 1 year to 2 years all attending on a full day care basis.

The **Toddler room** had 2 staff members with 8 children ranging in age from 1 year 11 months to 3 years all attending on a full day care basis.

The **Pre School room 1** had 1 staff member with 6 children ranging in age from 2 years to 3 years all attending on a full day care basis.

The **Pre School room 2** had 2 staff members with 12 children ranging in age from 3 years to 5 years attending on a full day care basis.

The **Pre School room 3 (School aged children present)** had 2 staff members with 10 school aged children ranging in age from 5 years to 9 years attending on a full day care basis.

The **Pre School room 4** not in use on the day of inspection.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

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,

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- The staff members sat with the children at snack and dinner time helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.
- In the Toddler and Preschool Room 1 room any child who became upset were nurtured and cuddled until they settled. Children were placed to sleep at the service designated sleep time after lunchtime.
- Children’s nappies were changed regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions during direct care. Staff members were responsive to the children’s cues should they need to use the toilet, with discreet supervision provided and assistance given if required.
- Children were observed being allowed to self-direct their own play. The children were afforded the opportunity to choose activities and to follow through on their choices and change activities if they so wish.
- The children were observed enjoying outdoor play with both their peers and staff members.

Supporting relationships around children:

- Children and parents were greeted at drop off and collection with friendly conversation overheard. The staff encouraged the children to engage positively with each other by adopting simple social rules such as turn taking, sharing in play activities and resolving minor disputes.
- Transitions were handled smoothly as the children were given ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.
- All rooms showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured with photographs on the “Family Wall”.

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

(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,

Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The sleep room had 4 standard cots for the younger children requiring sleep. The Toddler room had stackable beds placed on the floor for the older children requiring sleep. Within the care rooms there were mats and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.
- (3)(a) Outdoor areas were located to the rear of the building, which was enclosed by walls, had a grass area with 2 secure side gates.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- All the care rooms were well resourced with play materials and equipment which were laid out in interest areas which were spacious and uncluttered. The play materials and equipment incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts, a range of suitable toys and books which were easily accessible on open shelving at their height which supported children to select and become involved in meaningful, sustained play experiences.
- The outdoor areas had equipment appropriate to the age range of the children using the space. Equipment included sand/water trays, play houses, slides, climbing frames, cars and tractors, mud kitchens with play equipment, small wooden benches for outdoor activities.

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 had a 3-week menu plan for the children attending the full day care service with a variety of dishes ranging from meat, fish and poultry cooked on site. All children attending the sessional service brought their own

lunch. On the day of inspection, the children had a choice of cereals for breakfast. Morning snack was served at 10.00am-10.15am which consisted of a seasonal fruit platter. Lunch was served at 11:45am-12:15pm and consisted of homemade pizza. Dinner was served at 14:30-15:00pm which consisted of fish fingers, vegetables and mash. Water was the drinks of choice children had their own drink bottles available in the care rooms.

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

Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- The service was clean with cleaning schedules maintained on a daily basis.
- All bins for contaminated waste were foot pedal operated.
- Warm water, hand paper towel and liquid soap was available in the children’s sanitary facilities.

Safe Sleep:

The following Safe sleep practices were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- Children who were on sleep beds were supervised by an adequate number of adults at all times.
- A sleep log was maintained on all sleeping children at 10 minutes interval recording their colour, breathing pattern and position.
- The temperature of the sleep room was maintained between the normal range of 16°C to 20°C and the temperature of the care rooms used for sleep were maintained between the normal range of 18°C to 22°C while children were sleeping.

Fire Safety:

The following Fire Safety practices were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- All emergency exit doors were accessible in the event of an evacuation.
- Fire drills were recorded on a monthly basis.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis.

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 service provided evidence that a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

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 the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 6th March 2025.
- (b) A record was maintained of the mains powered smoke alarms and firefighting equipment which were last serviced on the 5th July 2024 and 11th April 2025 respectively.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises.

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 that the service was adequately insured for 70 children at any one time attending for full day care. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28th March 2025 to the 27th March 2026.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Non-Compliance Information

The flow to the hot tap in the children’s sanitary accommodation used by the children in preschool Room 3 was not sufficient as there was only a very low flow and this did not support effective hand washing

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Taps have been replaced. Water pressure has been tested and confirmed to be within safe operating range. The water temperature of the taps has also been checked and is within the safe and acceptable range.

Risk assessments have been updated to include regular checks of all bathroom fixtures and fittings. All staff have been informed of the updated risk assessments and have a clear understanding of their responsibilities in ensuring risk assessments are completed daily.

Supporting documentation submitted

Plumbers report confirming taps fixed and water temperature within normal range received by the Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider addresses the non compliance in Regulation 29.