

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN010
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Name of Service:	Bright Start
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Address of Service:	Main St, Mullagh, Co. Cavan
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Eircode:	A82 D282
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Name of Registered Provider:	Nuala Gilsenan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	19/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange, Plantation Walk, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader
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

Bright Start has been operating as a privately run childcare service since 2008. They provide sessional education and care to pre-school children aged from 2 - 6 years of age. The service is open from 09:00am to 12:00 pm each weekday and caters for a maximum of 32 children. The service currently has 2 care rooms in operation namely: ECCE 1 and 2. ECCE 1 is downstairs and spread over 3 rooms, ECCE 2 is upstairs. There are nappy changing and sanitary accommodation and an office. The service has an outdoor area to the back of the service.

Staffing

There are 4 adults employed in the service who 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 inspections 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

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the provider on the 19/05/2023 in relation to raised water temperatures. The registered submitted an adequate response on 22/05/23.

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

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and named deputy person to deputise as required. Both were on the premises when the inspectors arrived and were present throughout the inspection.

(2)(a), (b),(c) and (d)

Following discussion with the registered provider and staff and from the documentation available there were no new staff in the premises since the last inspection. No staff files were reviewed.

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) On the day of inspection when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service there were 2 rooms in operation. During the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.
- (3) The child: adult ratios were correct during the inspection with the exception of the time outlined in the non-compliance. The following adult: child ratios were observed in the care rooms when the inspector arrived at the premises:
- ECCE 1:**
- There were 11 preschool children (aged 3 to 5 years) attending this room with 3 childcare staff.
The child: adult ratios were correct at this time.
- ECCE 2:**
- There were 7 preschool children (aged 3 to 5 years) being cared for by 1 adult. The adult: child ratios were correct.

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

There were 2 rooms in operation on the day of the inspection namely ECCE 1 which was spread over three rooms and ECCE 2 upstairs in one room.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs:

- Independence with toileting was promoted for the children who were toilet trained and discreet supervision and checking was also provided by staff as required to a child who was toilet training. Nappy changing facilities were available in the service for any child who would require a nappy to be changed.
- The children were observed to move freely in the care rooms and had a change of environment to the covered outdoor area. All children were dressed appropriately to go outside.
- Assistance was given to the children who required help with their lunches and each child was given adequate time to finish their food. In ECCE 1 one child who wanted to outside with the children from ECCE 2 finished their lunch quickly and was facilitated to do so.

Supporting Relationships

- The adults throughout the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner. Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the children in all the rooms and transitions between activities were organised and swift. The language used by the staff in the service was positive, encouraging and kind e.g., "...we will line up with our friends" "you're so good," "will I help you with your suit." Encouragement and praise were offered to children who completed tasks or engaged in an activity.
- Staff sat with the children during activities on the floor and at tables and children were observed to actively seek out staff members.

- A key worker system was in operation in the service and the service operated a “Leader” system where different children each day had responsibility for different jobs such as being top of the line and giving out snacks.
- The staff reported that pre-dominant source of communication with parents was verbal at collection and drop off.

Physical and Material Environment

- Child sized furniture and equipment was in use throughout the service.
- A variety of age-appropriate toys and equipment were available in the care room on low level shelving which promoted independence and facilitated choice for the children.
- The resources available supported many areas of development such as fine motor skills, role play and sensory development.

Programme of Activities:

- Staff were recording observations and emerging interests of the children. Each child had a “My Preschool Journal.”
- Documentation and plans were in place to assist a child with additional needs in the service.
- Artwork was visible such as “under our sea,” “the buzz about bees”, “build a bug” and frogs.

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-

(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.

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

Compliance Information

(1)(b) There were soft comfortable areas in the rooms which consisted of mats sofas and cushions where a child could sit and relax or take a break from an activity.

(4) There was an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises with a variety of surfaces:

There was an art area with picnic bench and seats plus an art station. The grass area had a water tray, digging pit, trucks, 2 wooden seesaws and a small plastic slide.

A tarmacked area provided space for ride on toys and a wooden car made from seats, chalk for drawing on the ground, a wooden playhouse and some mirrors on the wall.

There was also a covered outdoor area with tarmacked surface with some defined interest areas such as a planting tray, construction and outdoor kitchen areas, a musical wall, black board, water shoots and some tables and chairs.

Non-Compliance Information

The step into the wooden playhouse was in a state of disrepair and a potential trip and injury hazard.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The felt on the step of the wooden playhouse is to be repaired. The playhouse has been made inaccessible to the children until repairs are carried out.

This has been noted on our risk assessments in the past. It was also repaired last year.

Supporting documentation submitted

2/10/23 Phone call to the registered provider who confirmed the playhouse is currently not in use until all repair works have been carried out or alternatively the house removed.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate is satisfied that the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance and that the children will not have access to this piece of equipment until any repairs are carried out.

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

Healthy eating was promoted in the service. Lunches were provided by the parents and stored appropriately by the service. Lunches in general were healthy and consisted of sandwiches, wraps, fruit, yogurts, crackers, pancakes, humous, and raisins.

Staff were observed to encourage the children to try snacks that were in their lunchboxes and new to them.

Potable drinking water was available for the children to access as required.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. At approximately 11:15 the water temperature in the taps of the sanitary accommodation accessed by the children were recorded at 66.1, 64.1 and 61.3°C. This is above the safe water temperature of 50°C and is a burns risk. A Safety Immediate Action Notice was issued on 19/05/23 in relation to the raised hot water temperatures.

Infection Control:

2. The nappy changing mat was torn and this does not allow for effective cleaning.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The registered provider has stated this was a human error and the temperature on the hot water pump was not turned down, however once this error was noticed by the registered provider the issue was rectified, and the water temperature reduced immediately. The reduced correct water temperature was verified by the Early Years Inspector conducting the inspection. The registered provider has given assurances that this was once off incident and would never occur on a regular basis. Upon discussions with the staff, it was decided that the water temperature switch will not be raised during the 9-12pm session while the children are in the service. There will be a reminder notice placed on the door 'not to touch the temperature gauge' and the issue will be raised again at the next staff meeting.

Infection Control:

2. The nappy changing mat has since been replaced. Regular checks and replace nappy mats when required.

Summary Comment

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the provider on the 19/05/2023 in relation to raised water temperatures. The registered submitted an adequate response on 22/05/23.

The assurances given by the registered provider to address the non-compliances identified in Regulation 23 have been accepted and will be for review on the next 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) The registered provider ensured that there was a person trained in First Aid Response for children, on the premises at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)and(b)The first aid box did not contain any eye pads or antiseptic wipes.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(a)and(b) The first aid box contained the wrong eye pads have been replaced and the staff have also replenished the antiseptic wipes.

Ensure any used items in the first aid box will be replenished.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response is accepted as addressing the non-compliances identified in Regulation 25.

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 was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. the last recorded 16/05/23.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated the 15/04/23.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were 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

Adequate insurance cover was in place for up to 32 children expiring 27/4/2024.