

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CN047
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Nulty CrecheLimited/ Playdays
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Assan, New Inn, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A82 VP93
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Helen Nulty
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	11/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM	12
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	AM Cunningham
<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>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Nulty Creche Limited/ Playdays is privately owned and provides full day care, part time, sessional and school aged childcare to children from 0 to 6 years. Eligible children participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE). The service consists of 4 interconnecting rooms-: Caterpillar room, Bumble Bees room, Butterflies room and the Village, sanitary facilities and a kitchen. Two outdoor spaces were available along with a grass area which was not used on the day of inspection.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs a manager and 3 childcare staff and one staff member who works with school aged children. One additional staff member is employed in an administration role. A student was also present on the day of inspection.

### 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 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.*

*(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) Fifteen validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.  
 (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 7 staff and the student within the required timeframe of every 3 years.  
 (d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) All childcare staff working directly with preschool children had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### Non-Compliance Information

- 2(a) A second reference was not available for one staff member.  
 (d) Police vetting was not available for one staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction in two separate countries for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

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

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

- (2)(a) A second reference has been obtained and submitted to the Inspectorate.  
 Going forward two references will be on file for every staff member.  
 (d) Police vetting submitted to the Inspectorate. The registered provider will ensure that police vetting is obtained for all future employees who have resided outside the jurisdiction.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

A reference was submitted to the Inspectorate.  
 Police vetting was submitted to the Inspectorate

### Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has addressed the noncompliance in Regulation 9.

### 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) Present on the day of inspection were 3 childcare staff, the registered provider and a student caring for 28 children.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed,

The **Bumblebee and Caterpillar room** had 17 children ranging in age from 3 years to 4 years being cared for by 2 staff. A student was also present. Six children were availing of full day care.

The **Butterfly room** had 11 children ranging in age from 3 years to 5 years being cared for by 1 staff. Four children were attending were availing of full day care.

The registered provider was present and available to staff when required. One staff member arrived at 14 00hrs to care for school aged children.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster presented to the Early Years Inspectors the registered provider ensured that 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:

- Children were encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, hand washing, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.
- The staff members sat and chatted with the children at mealtimes, helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.
- Staff supported children's learning with activities that were observed to be fun and creative. Children participated in art activities for St Patricks Day and children's artwork was displayed to reflect themes.
- The service embraces outdoor play and learning with all children observed enjoying outdoor play with their peers on the day of inspection.

##### Supporting relationships around children:

- Transitions were handled smoothly as the children were given ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.
- The adults were observed promoting positive behaviour and supported children to find positive solutions when they experienced challenge in sharing play equipment and materials. The children showed confidence around the staff members and sought out staff members for reassurance, comfort and support.
- Parents were greeted at collection time with friendly conversation overheard.

## 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.

#### Compliance Information

(b) Stackable beds were available if a children required a sleep during the day. These are stored in the storeroom in the hallway.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) Cosy areas consisting of mats and cushions were not available if a child needed to take a break from activities and rest.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

Cosy area set up within the care room. The cosy area will always be available.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the cosy area submitted to the inspectorate.

#### Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance in Regulation 20.

## 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 healthy eating policy with a weekly menu available. The food was prepared and cooked freshly on the premises daily. Extra helpings were provided to the children on request. Morning snack at 10.30am was

provided by parents. Dinner at 1pm on the day of inspection was chicken curry and rice. A second hot meal is offered at 4pm which consisted of chicken casserole and mashed potatoes. Children's drink bottles were available to them throughout the day on a low shelving unit.

### 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:

- Safe storage was available for the cleaning agents and equipment used in the service.
- The person in charge ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children, adults, and visitors to the service.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured.

##### Infection Control:

- Playrooms, communal areas, and sanitary areas were adequately ventilated by mechanical ventilation and by natural forms of opening doors and windows.
- There was liquid soap at the wash hand basins to facilitate hygienic hand washing for children and adults.
- Paper towels were provided in the dispensers in all the sanitary areas used by the children and adults to facilitate hygienic hand drying.

##### Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. Some cleaning materials were stored on low level shelving accessible to children.
2. The chairs and tables for three children were too high, the children's feet were not secure on the floor which posed a toppling risk.

3. Children were not offered plates at snack time resulting in some children placing their lunch directly on the table.
4. One toilet seat in the toilet area near the village was not secure and posed a pinch hazard.

### Infection Control:

5. The doors in the children's sanitary accommodation off the Village play area did not have a wipeable surface which posed an infection control risk.

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

#### General Safety:

#### Corrective Action

1. The cleaning materials has been moved to a new higher location.
2. A lower table and chairs in place within the ECCE room.
3. Introduction of plates for children to place their lunch items on during the ECCE snack time
4. The loose toilet seat has been tightened

#### Infection Control:

5. The toilet doors of the village painted to leaving a wipeable finish.

#### Preventive Action

Staff have been informed of the new location for cleaning materials.

The registered provider will ensure children are seated at the appropriate table and chairs for their height.

Plates will be stocked and readily available within the ECCE room.

Toilet seats will be checked regularly for disrepair.

Doors will be checked regularly to ensure a wipeable finish is maintained.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Photographic evidence submitted of

The cleaning materials stored out of reach of children

Children's tables and chairs at a suitable height

Plates for the children at snack time

Toilet seat fixed

### Infection Control:

Painting carried out on the doors of the sanitary accommodation

### Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 23.

## 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

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

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) A person trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR) was not available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. It is acknowledged that there is a person trained in FAR, however this person was not present on the day of inspection.

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

### Corrective and Preventive Action

FAR training booked for a second member of staff.

The registered provider will ensure that a minimum of two staff members hold FAR certification in future and that a person training in FAR is available at all times. The staff member with FAR training will be present each day until a second staff member is trained up.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

The registered provider submitted evidence of a second staff member booked for FAR training.

**Summary Comment**

The response from the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances 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) Records are available to show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced April 2024. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 08/08/2024.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on 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 50 children at any one time. The expiry date on the insurance certificate was from 28/03/2024 to the 27/03/2025.