

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN047
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Name of Service:	Nulty Creche Limited/ Playdays
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Address of Service:	Assan, New Inn, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan
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Eircode:	A82 VP93
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Name of Registered Provider:	Helen Nulty
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	09/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	8
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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
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) There were no new staff members employed in the service since the last inspection. All staff files were reviewed at that inspection and met compliance at the end of the inspection process.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) All childcare staff who worked directly with the pre-school children held 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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 who cared for 10 children and 6 school aged children.
- (2) The following adult to child ratios were observed,
- The **Bumblebee, Caterpillar and Butterfly room** were combined, and present were 10 preschool children ranging in age from 2 years 10 months to 4 years 6 months being cared for by 2 staff. The person in charge was available to staff when required.
- (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, and*

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:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Basic Needs of the Infants and Children:

- 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 service embraces outdoor play and learning with all children observed enjoying meaningful, sustained play with their peers.
- The staff members sat and chatted with the children at mealtimes, helping the children when required whilst encouraging and supporting language development. Children had easy access to their drinks which were accessible in their care rooms.
- Chairs and tables were at the children's height enabling children to be independent and comfortable in their environment.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff members were observed to be very caring, kind and attentive in their interactions with the children and demonstrated sensitivity and responsiveness to each child's individual needs, likes and preferences.
- The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs displayed in the care rooms which gave a sense of identity and belonging.

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 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day,

Compliance Information

(1)(a) Stackable beds were available should a child require sleep as there are no children under 2 attending at present. On the day of inspection children did not require sleep. A cosy area was available within the care room should a child wish to rest during the day.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

The indoor environments were inviting and offered the children a rich context for varied multi-sensory learning experiences. The children had access to multi-sensory play in the morning such as playdough, water and sand. The book corner in each learning room was furnished with soft furnishings, which supported the children to relax and engage with the books. Materials and equipment were available on low level shelving in the care rooms. This assisted children to select and replace items of interest independently. The rooms were bright and airy with artwork displayed. The “Village” area provided a range of play experiences such as the post office, hairdressers, garda station, shop, café, and medical centre.

Some of the equipment in the outdoor spaces included wooden activity units, mud kitchens, wooden picnic benches, slide and swings, wooden stationary train, activity trays, climbing ramps, toy cars and push along 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

The service had a healthy eating policy with a weekly menu available. The food was prepared on the premises daily. Extra helpings were provided to the children on request. Morning snack at 10.30am was provided by parents. Dinner at 1.30pm on the day of inspection was cottage pie. A second hot meal is offered at 4pm which consisted of chicken curry pasta. 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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The front door of the service was secured, a staff member answers the door to facilitate visitors to gain access. This minimised the risk of unauthorised persons gaining access to the service.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelving or secured cupboards, out of the reach of children.
- Toys and play equipment were safe for the age group using them, in good condition, and free from pinch and crush points, exposed bolts or sharp edges.
- High- level fencing was provided in the outdoor play area, at the side of the building.

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 disposal of nappies were foot pedal operated.
- Warm water, hand paper towel and liquid soap was available in the children's sanitary facilities.
- All creams were labelled with the children's name.

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 were recorded on a daily basis.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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) 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 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 66 children at any one time attending for full day care. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28th March 2026 to the 27th March 2027.