

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR097
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bright Beginnings Nursery and Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Upper Churchtown Road, Churchtown, Dublin 14, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D14 R2E2
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Deirdre Conroy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	08/05/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	79	PM	79
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Quigley, F. Carty, G. Kavanagh
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector(s)

### 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

Bright Beginnings Nursery and Creche is a privately owned large full day care service which was established in 1998. The service is located in a residential area of Churchtown, South County Dublin. Care and education are provided to children aged between one and six years and the service is currently registered to operate from Monday to Friday between 08:30 and 17:30 hours. The service is a purposely adapted two storey premises which is attached to a secondary school building. Children are divided between seven care rooms in accordance to their age and stage of development, and two dedicated sleep rooms are available. A large outdoor play area is available to the front of the premises which has been divided into three separate play spaces.

### Staffing

The service currently employs twenty-two staff members, including the registered provider and a cook. On the day of inspection, nineteen staff members were present 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler, Playschool, Toddler Two, Monti One, and Monti Two rooms.

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 registered provider, persons in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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.*

*(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

*(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

- (2)
- Following a discussion with the appointed person in charge it was confirmed that two adults had commenced working in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of these two adults as detailed below.
- (a) (b) There were two references each available for the adults which had been appropriately verified.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults employed to work in the service.
  - (d) International police vetting was available for the adults who both required it.
- (3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to the adults commencing employment in the service.
- (4) The adults both held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were seventy-nine children present in the service being supervised by fifteen adults during the inspection. The persons in charge provided relief cover to the care rooms when required.

### 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

The service had a healthy eating policy in place which staff stated was communicated to parents when a child starts in the service. Staff stated breakfast, snacks, and a hot lunch is provided by the service each day for the children in attendance. Drinking water was available to the children at all times during the inspection.

Children were all provided with the opportunity to sleep at a designated time after dinner and staff reported that children were facilitated to sleep outside of this set time if required. Rest areas were available in each room to enable the children to take time away from the group as desired. Children were supported to be independent in their environment including using the toilet independently, cleaning up following meals and play, and washing their hands and faces after eating. Adults used respectful language during interactions with the children and were observed to be responsive to children's individual care needs. Staff responded promptly to younger children's cues for care and used gentle tones whilst speaking to the children at their level.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was available to the front of the premises with a wooden decked surfacing which had been divided into three separate play spaces. The area was well resourced with a variety of play equipment and materials. The seven care rooms were amply resourced, and all materials were made accessible to the children at all times on low level shelving units, facilitating the children's choices in play. Low level tables and chairs were available to the children in accordance with their age and size. Pieces of the children's artwork were displayed around the care rooms alongside photographs of the children and birthday walls.

## 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

The inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with the registered provider, and inspection of the premises that the following steps to safeguard children attending:

#### General Safety:

Steps were implemented to ensure the safety of the children. The entry and exit points were secured to prevent children from leaving the service unattended or unauthorised individuals from gaining access. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Potentially hazardous materials such as cleaning products and medicines were safely stored out of children's reach. There were no hazards identified in the indoor environments.

#### Infection Control:

Measures were taken to minimise the risk of infection spreading. Soothers were kept in individual containers to avoid cross-contamination. Appropriate infection control measures were taken during nappy changing including the use of gloves, aprons, and thorough handwashing after changes. Waste was managed appropriately using pedal-operated bins. Each child was provided with their own bed linen, which staff stated was laundered weekly and stored individually between uses. Staff were aware of guidelines on exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses. Warm water, soap and paper towels were available for handwashing and both staff and children washed their hands at regular intervals and as required.

#### Administration of Medication:

Medications were stored in their original packaging out of reach of children. Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of procedures to safeguard children when administering medicine. This included ensuring written consent was obtained from parents or guardians, having a second staff member present as a witness during administration, and maintaining detailed records shared with parents or guardians upon collection. Care plans

were available for children who required emergency medication and staff demonstrated a robust awareness of the requirements of these plans during discussions with the inspectors.

### Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep rooms, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were recorded and maintained at the required temperature ranges.

### Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

Three areas of the wooden decking in the outdoor play area had sunken and broken, creating holes and uneven surfacing which form trip hazards and posed a risk of injury to a child.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

The issue with the decking had been previously identified by management and is the next item scheduled for repair. In the interim, the following immediate actions have been taken to ensure the safety of all children:

- Any holes have been fixed to prevent trip hazards.
- Staff and management are aware that any affected areas are to be cordoned off immediately until repairs are made.
- Staff and management carry out ongoing visual checks of the decking and surrounding areas.
- Any new hazards that arise are reported immediately and addressed promptly.

Timeline for Completion:

- Temporary safety measures: Ongoing.

- Full renovation of decking areas: To be started once the fire compliance work is completed.
- Estimated renovations to begin on the last week of June.

Renovation of all three decking areas is planned to take place from the last week in June and over the summer period. This timeframe allows for the necessary works to be completed. Going forward, staff and management will continue to monitor the area closely and maintain current hazard reporting procedures to ensure that any risks are addressed promptly.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

#### **General Safety:**

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### **Summary Comment**

The regulatory requirement has been met.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

### **Compliance Information**

- (c) The registered provider ensured that the care rooms were adequately heated on the day of inspection at the required temperature range of between 18 - 22°Celsius.
- (d) The premises were found to be cleaned, maintained and repaired as required during the inspection.