

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS115
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Name of Service:	StartBright St. Ronan's
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Address of Service:	St. Ronan's Resource Centre, Deansrath, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D22 DP99
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Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine McQuillan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	09/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Startbright St Ronan's is one of seven not-for-profit childcare services operated by the registered provider located in an urban setting in Clondalkin South West Dublin. A service is provided to children aged 3 to 6 years. The service offers the Early Childhood and Education scheme from 09.00am to 12.00pm and is open until 12.30pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The premises is located in St Ronan's Resource Centre and comprises of one care room; the service have use of a large indoor hall and an outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

In total four adults are employed in the service. The registered provider does not work in the service. On the day of inspection two adults worked directly with the children.

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. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child. 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 -

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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.

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.*

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(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

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) At all times during the inspection the named person was available to deputise.
- (2) In total 4 adults are employed in the service. The person in charge confirmed one new adult was employed since the last inspection on the 08 February 2023. This file and Garda vetting for all staff were reviewed as part of the inspection process.
- (a) Two written validated references were available from a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 4 adults. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as the newly employed adult had not lived outside Ireland for a period of longer than six months as an adult.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to the adult being allowed contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) There was evidence to demonstrate the employed adult held a QQI level 6 award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

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(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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 17 pre-school children attending the service on the morning of inspection being supervised by 2 adults during the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

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Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of 10 records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:
- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
 - (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
 - (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
 - (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
 - (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
 - (f) The records available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
 - (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
 - (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.
 - (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.
- (3) (c) The records in relation to the pre-school children were available for inspection.

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-
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

- (1)(b) Warm and positive interactions were observed between staff and children throughout the day. Staff spoke to children in a respectful manner and supported them appropriately during a variety of activities. Play was child-led, particularly during the morning session when children enjoyed free play. They independently selected the activities they wished to engage in. Play materials were easily accessible on open shelving, allowing children to make independent choices. The room was organised into clearly defined areas of interest, which supported children in exploring different types of play.

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All children had the opportunity to participate in outdoor play. Children independently but on their coats prior to going outside. The outdoor play area was safely secured by a high wall and gate. Children had access to a range of equipment, including a sand area, home corner resources, and construction toys. Some children engaged in messy play with the sand while others were observed chasing and popping bubbles. Staff closely supervised the children during outdoor play and provided support where needed. Transitions between activities were well managed, and children were given timely notice before moving to the next part of the routine.

A helper system was used to support the development of children's skills and independence. Children who were nominated as helpers assisted with preparing the room for lunchtime. Staff confirmed that all snacks and meals are provided by the service. At lunchtime, children were offered bread and butter with a choice of toppings including ham, cheese, or chicken. A selection of fruit such as apples, oranges, and bananas was also available. Drinking water was freely available in the care room and children were offered a choice of milk or water with their lunch. Children sat together in a sociable manner, chatting with each other and with staff. Throughout the day, children were observed going to the toilet independently.

Staff communicate with parents daily at both drop-off and collection times, sharing information about the children's day and supporting ongoing partnership with families.

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:

The entrance door to the service and the outdoor area were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. Cleaning agents and medication were stored out of reach of children. There were no trailing cables or flexes present.

Infection Control:

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Children were observed washing their hands before eating and after outdoor play. Good hygiene practices by staff were observed including washing their hands prior to lunch. Foot pedal bins were provided in the care room and sanitary area. Cleaning schedules were available and maintained.

Administration of Medication:

When spoken to staff were familiar with the medication policy. A system was in place to record medication if it was required.

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.

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) Both staff caring for the children were trained in first aid for children and were at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) (a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored in the preschool room and easily accessible and available to the children attending the pre-school at all times.

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.

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(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 was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 27 February 2026.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarm was available. The maintenance records for the firefighting equipment were dated the 08 October 2025 and the maintenance record for the smoke alarm was dated the 05 February 2026.

(4) The procedure to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire was displayed in conspicuous location in the pre-school room.