

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS142
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Nurture Childcare and Early Learning Centre AMNCH
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	AMNCH Tallaght Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D24 NROA
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ciara Gallagher
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	19/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	37	PM	35
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Rd, Naas, Co Kildare
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R. Brien
<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>	N/A
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### Description of service

Nurture Childcare and Early Learning Centre AMNCH is a full day care service provided by Nurture Childcare which operates six childcare services in Dublin, Cork and Clare. The service provides full day, part time and sessional care for children from 0 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 07:15 to 17:45, Monday to Friday. Sessional care is provided from 09:00 to 12:00.

The service is located in a single storey, purpose-built premises on the grounds of Tallaght hospital. There are four care rooms in the service. The Baby room caters for children aged 11 months to 1 year. The Wobbler room caters for children from 1 to 2 years of age. The Toddler room caters for children aged 2 to 3 years and the Preschool room caters for children from 3 to 5 years of age. The service also has a dedicated cot room. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises which is directly accessed from three of the care rooms.

### Staffing

The service currently employs 13 staff members including a cook. There were 11 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection including the manager. The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection and does not work directly in the service.

### 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following regulations;

19 (1)(a),(b) – Health, welfare and development of child,

23 – Safeguarding, health, safety and welfare of child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Baby and Wobbler rooms.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 – Record of a pre-school child.

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.

## 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)(b)

The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. Both were on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

The files of 17 adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included nine staff members who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, two adults from an early years

agency and two students who were present on inspection. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b)

Of the 34 validated, written references that were required, 29 were available from a past employer and 5 were available from a reputable source.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for 17 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was required for five staff members and was available for the five staff members who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4)

Records were available evidencing that the 14 staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

### 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)  
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2)  
The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 37 children attending the service being supervised by 11 adults on the day of inspection.
- (8)(a)  
There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)  
A sample of 10 records were reviewed which demonstrated that a record was available in writing which contained the information required in (a) to (i) above.

### 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*

(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

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and staff reported that all meals are provided by the service. Hot meals are provided by an external catering company and are reheated on site. Meals were provided at regular intervals and drinking water was accessible to children throughout the day. Dinner took place at 11:30 and children were provided with bibs for dinnertime. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff supported younger children who needed assistance with their dinner. Additional servings of dinner were available, and staff were observed asking children if they wanted more. Additional servings were provided for all children who requested more.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Children's hands and faces were cleaned after dinner as required. Children's nappies were changed regularly, and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care.

Children in the Baby room were placed to sleep when they displayed signs of tiredness and there was a designated nap time for children attending the Wobbler room. Cots were provided appropriate to the children's age and stage of development. All children were made comfortable for sleep; staff removed children's shoes and

outer clothing; they provided the children with blankets, and they offered soothers to those who used them. The environment was calm and conducive to sleep, with staff soothing the children as needed during this time.

The service had a key person system in place. Staff responded to children's cues promptly and demonstrated warmth and sensitivity during their interactions with the children throughout the inspection. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during play and mealtimes. Staff were observed to use distraction, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's behaviour policy.

The staff described how they communicate with parents daily about their child using an online application detailing information on food, sleep and nappy changes and at arrival and collection time.

The care rooms were arranged into areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Areas of interest included home corners, small world toys, construction toys, sensory play materials and a rest area and library. The care rooms provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and were adequately resourced with a variety of materials.

The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care rooms.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was located to the rear of the premises and had shock absorbent surfacing. The area was divided into two separate play spaces. The outdoor area was well resourced with a range of developmentally appropriate play equipment. All children accessed the outdoor area on the day of inspection.

## 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 was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Medicines and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- All blind cords were secured.

##### Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including before meals.
- An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The premises, equipment and materials appeared clean and maintained in good condition.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- Children's nappies were changed in line with the service's nappy changing policy to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.
- A system was in place for the effective sterilisation of soothers.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children and was stored separately when not in use. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered regularly or as required.
- All cot mattresses in use had waterproof covers.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated, through discussion, that they were familiar with the procedures and practices in place for the administration of medication in line with the services policy on medication administration.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every 10 minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.

##### Fire Safety:

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

- All fire exits were clear of obstruction.