

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY036
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Name of Service:	Bunratty Community Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	Northside Civic Centre, Bunratty Road, Bonnybrook, Dublin 17, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D17 K462
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Name of Registered Provider:	Declan Golding
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	19/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM	24
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable.
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Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Bunratty Community Childcare Centre is a community early years service and is located in a two-storey purpose-built premises located on the grounds of Northside Civic Centre on the northside of Dublin city. The service provides full day and part time care to children aged 1 to 6 years of age operating from 8:30am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday. There are 3 care rooms in the service all of which are located on the ground floor namely the Waddler room (1 to 2 years) Junior Preschool room (2 to 4 years) and the Senior Preschool room (aged 3 to 5 years). The room that was previously used as a dining room on the ground floor has been reconfigured to create a sleep room to accommodate sleep for the children attending the Waddler room. Each care room has access to its own individual outdoor area which is located to the rear of the care rooms.

Staffing

Twenty-nine staff are employed to work in the service to include the person in charge, deputy person in charge, eleven childcare staff, one relief childcare staff, fourteen staff members employed under the community education scheme and one administrative staff. The registered provider does not work in the service. The service is currently facilitating eight students for work experience – six college students and two students as part of Transition Year work experience programme. No student was 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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 25 and 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. The scope of the inspection included The Waddler room and The Junior Preschool room and did not include the Preschool room.

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 deputy 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

(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

2) The staff files of 15 staff members employed in the service reviewed along with 14 community employment staff members and six students from college on placement and two Transition Year students on a work experience programme were reviewed.

Garda vetting disclosures for 29 staff that work in the service, six students from college on placement and the registered provider were reviewed.

(a) Thirty-one validated written references were available from a past employer.

(b) Forty-three validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider, 29 staff members employed in the service and the six students on work placement. 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 for all staff employed.

(d) (d) Police vetting was available for three staff and one student who have lived outside of the State for longer than six months as an adult.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) Fourteen staff members and one staff employed under the community employment scheme who work directly with the early years children had documentary evidence of at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

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) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as follows:

There were 9 adults directly working with 34 children in the morning and there were 7 adults working with 24 children in the afternoon.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service as follows:

Morning:

- Waddler Room - 3 adults to 8 children aged between 1 years to 2 years 6 months,
- Junior Preschool - 3 adults to 12 children aged between 2 years 6 months to 4 years,
- Preschool Room - 3 adults to 14 children aged between 3 years to 5 years,

Afternoon:

- Waddler Room - 2 adults to 7 children aged between 1 years to 2 years 6 months,

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Junior Preschool - 2 adults to 9 children aged between 2 years 6 months to 4 years,
- Preschool Room - 3 adults to 8 children aged between 3 years to 5 years,

The deputy person in charge was available in a supportive role where required

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were at least two adults 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

Basic Needs:

- The service provided meals and snacks at regular intervals and a hot meal to the children. On the day of inspection, the inspector observed a hot meal, supplied by Meals on Wheels in the community, was served between 11.00am and 11.15am in the care rooms of pork, mashed potato, cauliflower and gravy and at 2pm a hot afternoon snack of fishfingers made in the service kitchen, was served. Breakfast is served between 8 and 9am and a cold snack is served at 3.30 pm.
- Water was available in each care room for the children to drink.
- Nappy changing and toileting were respectful and positive experiences for the children, and staff were observed to encourage the children to be independent in managing their personal care such as handwashing.
- All children in each room were observed to enjoy outdoor play during the inspection.
- Children's need for sleep and rest was met through the provision of comfortable rest areas available in each care room. Cots with individual bedding were available to the children who required sleep, in the cot room. At sleep time, the cot room was darkened and white noise played creating a restful environment.

Supporting relationships:

- Staff were observed to have respectful, warm and responsive interactions with the children through the use of soft tones and positive non-verbal communication strategies such as being at the children's level.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Staff were observed to be engaged with and sit with the children during play time and having positive interactions during play activities of plastic bricks and water play. They were responsive to the children.
- Staff members supported each other in the provision of care to the children.

Physical and Material Environment

- The care rooms were clean, bright, organised and well laid out in defined areas of interest.
- Low level shelving and child sized accessible and available tables and chairs supported children's independence.
- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment accessible and available to them.
- Family and birthday wall displays were displayed in the service which supported children's well-being and identity and belonging.
- The three outdoor play environments to the rear of the premises were fully enclosed, the surface of which was covered with artificial soft ground with grass or bark areas. The outdoor toys were suitable and available and included wall puzzles, mud kitchens, a climbing ramp, a playhouse, box of large blocks.

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:

- On the unannounced arrival at the service by the inspector, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured and monitored by staff, to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- No trailing flexes were observed, blind cords were secure, visibility circles present on doors and cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The three outdoor areas were a safe and secure environment with play equipment and materials clean and suitable for use by the children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled water, soap and paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins for disposal of paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed after nappy changing, after bathroom visits, after nose blowing and before and after mealtimes.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children and nappy changing was completed for the children, at set times or when required in accordance with the service policy.
- Soothers were stored in individual labelled boxes.
- During sleep time, cots were positioned with the recommended 50 centimetres between each child.
- Twelve stackable beds were stored with a cover on them when not in use.

Administration of Medication:

- A care plan was available for a child with an on-going medical condition, outlining the specific symptoms to note and actions to be undertaken by staff members for administration of medication in the case of an emergency.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs for children under two years of age, were facilitated with access to cots for sleep in the cot room.
- The sleep needs of children over two years of age were met through the provision of low floor beds.
- Shoes and clothing were removed from children while they slept.
- Ten-minute sleep checks were completed on the children for colour, breathing, position while children slept.
- The temperatures of the cot room at sleep time were documented and maintained between the recommended temperatures of 18-22 °C while children over 1 years old slept.

Fire Safety:

- Documentation available demonstrated that fire drills were completed in the service monthly. The emergency exit areas in the care rooms were observed to be unobstructed and clear of any obstacles during the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) The service provided evidence that eight adults trained in First Aid Response were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) (b) First aid boxes were stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each classroom of the service, in the kitchen, in the office and in reception and were available to the children in the service 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 firefighting 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) A written record was reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 26 January 2026.
- (b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment available demonstrated they were last serviced 20 March 2025 and for smoke alarms demonstrated were last serviced on 22 January 2026.
- (4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the wall of the care room and observed by the Inspector.