

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY306
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Daoine Beaga
-------------------------	--------------

Address of Service:	Christchurch, Rathgar Complex, Rathgar Road, Dublin 6
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D06 CF63
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Máirín Ní Fheidh
-------------------------------------	------------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	13/11/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	6	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte and E. Finnegan Hayes
Title:	Early Years Inspector and Interim Inspection and Registration Manager

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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Daoine Beaga is a private sessional service which has been in operation since 2003. The service offers a bilingual curriculum moving between English and Irish. The service is registered to care for up to ten children aged between 2-6 years old. The service is open thirty-eight weeks of the year Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-1:00pm. Daoine Beaga offers the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme. The service is based in Christchurch parish centre. It has a designated care room and the use of a large hall. The service has access to a grassed outdoor area at the back of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider provides direct care to the pre-school children attending and employs one staff member. Both adults were present on the day of the 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 and premises and facilities. 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-

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, 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-

(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,

Compliance Information

(2) A discussion with management and a review of available paperwork confirmed there are no new staff working in the service since the last inspection in March 2025. A review of records maintained by Tusla showed that garda a vetting disclosure for an existing staff member had expired, this was reviewed as part of the inspection process.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

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.*
- (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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults available to the children attending the service to meet their care needs. There were two adults working directly with the 6 children present.
- (3) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived and were maintained correctly throughout 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was maintained for all six children attending the service that contained the information required under (1)(a)-(i) above.
- (3) The records were available in the premises for the inspectors to review.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (j) There was a record book available to record the details required for any medication administration however the registered provider advised there has been no accidents in the service since the last inspection.
- (k) There was a record book available to record the details required for any accidents or incidents however the registered provider advised there has been no accidents in the service since the last 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) The following practices were observed to be in place to support the children attending:

- Staff were observed to support children to resolve small disputes using strategies such as redirection and giving clear direction on acceptable behaviours.
- Staff joined children at the table during mealtimes and activities and engaged with them in conversation.
- Staff regularly reminded children about toileting and accompanied them to the sanitary area offering assistance if required.
- Clear guidance was given to the children on the routine of the day.

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 registered provider ensured the following:

- The furniture and equipment in the care room were observed to be adequate for the number of children present, it was appropriate for the age range and stage of development of the children and was well maintained, durable and easy to clean.
- The children had access to equipment in the hall in the morning to support a variety of play including playdough for fine motor movements and ride on toys for gross motor movements.
- There was low level shelving in care room.
- The outdoor environment was maintained and suitable for use.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Resources in the care room were not displayed in an inviting and accessible manner to encourage children's play. The room was observed to be cluttered with resources poorly organised reducing opportunity for extended and meaningful play experiences. The following was observed:

- Boxes containing toys were disorganised with a jumble of random items inside.
- Resources were not grouped into defined areas for play.
- The play kitchen had no supporting resources available and the shelves contained out of place items.
- The library area was cluttered with torn and damaged books.

This non-compliance was observed on the previous inspection in March 2025. The preventive action has not been maintained in line with the information provided to the inspectorate following the last inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Resources in the care room are now displayed in an inviting manner and accessible to encourage children's play and damaged books have been removed. Management have added another cleaning slot to the cleaning schedule specifically for the care room. This is to allow for any clutter or random mixed boxes to be kept on top of. With this in place we will be able to continue to keep the care room in an inviting and accessible.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 21 has been addressed.

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:

- Cleaning products were safely stored out of children's reach.
- Furniture not in use was stored in a safe manner.
- Large storage press in the hall where children played was closed securely and inaccessible.
- An ambient room temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in the care room where children played.

Infection Control:

- A window was open in the care room for ventilation allowing fresh air to circulate.
- Tables were cleaned and disinfected before and after lunchtime.
- A foot pedal bin and dispensed soap were present in the sanitary area to support effective infection control procedures.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation routes were observed clear of obstruction.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for one staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. The hot water in both hand wash basins of the sanitary accommodation accessed by children were recorded as 46.7°C; this exceeded the allowable maximum temperature of 43°C, this posed a risk of injury and did not support effective hand washing. This non-compliance was observed on the previous inspection in March 2025. The preventive action has not been maintained in line with the information provided to the inspectorate following the last inspection.
3. There was no record of risk assessments available for any area of the premises. The completion of risk assessments provides for children safety as it helps staff identify possible hazards and put effective measures in place to mitigate these risks. This non-compliance was observed on the previous inspection in

March 2025. The corrective action has not been maintained in line with the information provided to the inspectorate following the last inspection

4. Staff belongings including handbags were accessible to children and posed a potential safety risk to children.
5. The trailing flex of a lamp was observed in reach of children in the care room and posed a potential risk of injury. This non-compliance was observed on the previous inspection in March 2025. The preventive action has not been maintained in line with the information provided to the inspectorate following the last inspection.
6. The mealtime practices were not in line with service policy to ensure a safe and nutritious snack was provided. The following was observed:
 - A child was observed to eat uncut grapes brought from home at snack time. This presented a choking hazard. HSE and Tusla guidelines state that fruit served to young children must be quartered or halved. It is acknowledged that a staff member engaged with the child to chew and swallow when the grapes were observed. This non-compliance was observed on the previous inspection in March 2025. The preventive action has not been maintained in line with the information provided to the inspectorate following the last inspection
 - Two children's lunches were not in line with the healthy eating policy and contained high sugar items. No alternative snack was offered in line with the service policy.

Infection Control:

7. Perishable foods such as yoghurt and cheese brought by the children from home were not stored in a fridge, this increases the risk of bacteria multiplying to levels which could result in illness in young children.
8. The laminate cover on the door of the play kitchen unit was damaged which prevented effective cleaning.

Fire Safety:

9. Although there was an attendance book available it was not completed for the children present in the service on the day of the inspection. This posed a potential risk of hindering safe evacuation of the premises in the event of an emergency. This non-compliance was observed on the previous inspections in November 2024 and March 2025. The preventive action has not been maintained in line with the information provided to the inspectorate following the last inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was due for renewal and has been completed. Garda vetting is on the service checklist to ensure all documents are in date on file in the building.
2. The building manager was notified who tested the taps again and taps have now been amended to the correct temperature. The building manager will be notified if the issue happens again and another available basin will be used. Management have added water temperature checks to our daily risk checklist to ensure we have a plan in place for hand washing each day.
3. A new risk assessment was created and is now displayed on the care room notice board to ensure it gets seen and checked daily to ensure these risks are identified immediately and amended accordingly.
4. There is a designated staff area in the kitchen with hooks for bags and coats. Staff will place belongings here upon arrival each day to ensure no risk to children. Staff belongings have been added to the service risk checklist.
5. The lamp has been removed. All equipment and furniture will be checked regularly and if necessary, removed or repaired.
6. Management discussed in a meeting how to improve this situation going forward. Any uncut fruit will be cut by staff and parents contacted to remind them they need to follow service policy by cutting fruit and provide healthy lunches. Mealtimes were added to service risk checklist. Staff were reminded of policy and will offer a safe and healthy alternative going forward.

Infection Control:

7. Children's lunches get put into the fridge straight after they arrive every day. Staff were reminded of the importance of lunches being stored correctly. It is now on the service risk assessment checklist.
8. The play kitchen laminate covering has been repaired. This is on the service risk checklist going forward.

Fire Safety:

9. Staff now have the attendance book at all times and complete it first thing in the morning when children arrive. Staff have discussed this at length and been reminded of the importance of this. All Staff now also have a copy of roll call on the phone for going forward. Attendance book to be with staff member at all times and this is on the daily risk checklist as a reminder to do so.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Risk assessment checklist.

Copy of communication to parents.

Infection Control:

Risk assessment checklist.

Photographic evidence.

Fire Safety:

Risk assessment checklist.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 points 2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9 have been addressed. The noncompliance in relation to Regulation 23 point 1 remains outstanding regarding one staff member. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate.