

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL117
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Name of Service:	Blanchardstown Home - Start
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Address of Service:	10 Blakestown Cottages, Blakestown Road, Clonsilla, Dublin 15.
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Eircode:	D15 HE29
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Murray
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	30/04/2026
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Date 2 of Inspection:	01/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	N/A
Day 2	AM	22	PM	14

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 T. Nelson
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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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).

Description of service

Blanchardstown Home Start is a part-time day care service located in a residential area of Dublin 15 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 38 children at any one time aged 0 to 6 years Monday to Friday. The service operates two sessions, 9.00am to 1.00pm, and an afternoon session from 1.15pm to 5.00pm. Blanchardstown Home Start operates from two buildings within the premises, the Creche and the Treehouse. The creche is a converted residential building with rooms to include the Bears and Cubs room (8 months to 2.5 years old), sanitary facilities for children and staff, a cot room, a family room, a play therapy room and office. The treehouse is a building to the rear of the premises which has two care rooms, to include the Rainforest Room (3 to 4 years old) and the Sunshine room (2 to 3 years old). Further sanitary facilities are available in this building. A fully enclosed outdoor area is located to rear of the premises by the treehouse building. A small enclosed outdoor play space is positioned behind the cubs and bear's room.

Staffing

There are currently 18 adults working within the service. This includes the registered provider, deputy person in charge, family liaison co-ordinator and ten qualified early years professionals. There are five adults who are solely employed under the Community Employment (CE) programme. Of these five adults one person is kitchen staff, and one person is in a maintenance role. The registered provider is supernumerary and manages oversight of 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

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The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was announced and focused on the area of governance and safety. 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.

Additional Information

This inspection was triggered by an observation during a fit for purpose inspection carried out on 30th April 2026 in line with Tusla processes.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN0301	30/04/2026	The surface temperature of a radiator which was accessible to children was recorded by the inspector as 56°C, which presented a burn risk.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following the issue of the notice and the provider submitted a written response which detailed corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the inspectorate.	
Immediate Action Notice IAN0283	01/05/2026	Evidence of police vetting was not available for one adult who had access to children.
Status	Corrective action was taken by the registered provider within the required timeframe of the notice. The provider also submitted a written response which detailed preventative actions which were accepted by the inspectorate. Police vetting must be submitted to the inspectorate prior to the person having access to children.	

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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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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) The registered provider ensured that:

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A review of available documents showed that either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service on both days of inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that three new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Two of these new staff members worked directly with the preschool children attending the

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service. The full files of the three new staff and qualifications for nine adults working directly with the children were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for two staff members whose disclosure was identified as due for renewal was requested for review. The registered provider had completed the following checks:

- (a) Two written and validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) Four written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all five 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 available for two adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.

- (4) Evidence was available to show that 12 adults who worked directly with the children held 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN0283.

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) 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 10 adults available to children present on the morning of the inspection when the inspectors arrived.
 - The person in charge and deputy person in charge was available to provide support across the rooms.

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(2) The adult to child ratios were maintained correctly throughout the inspection. A review of the room attendance sheets showed there were sufficient staff allocated to the care rooms for the numbers of children in attendance.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

See statutory notice section in relation to Improvement Notice0301 served.