

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY031
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Name of Service:	Beoga Pre-School Castlegar
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Address of Service:	St. Colmcilles N.S, School Road, Castlegar, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 A3Y5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Hession-Connolly
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan.
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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Description of service

The service operates a sessional service and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme from 09:00 to 12:25, Monday to Friday and can cater for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is in St Colmcille's national school in the outskirts of Galway city in Castlegar. The sessional service operates out of a prefabricated building which consists of a playroom and sanitary facilities for preschool children. The service has an outdoor area to the rear of the service and children have access to outdoor play in a secured outdoor play area. There is also a sheltered area where children can play when weather conditions are poor. Private parking is provided at the front of the premises.

Staffing

There are 4 adults working in the service which includes the register provider and an administrator. The 3 adults working directly with the children in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education above the minimum requirement of FETAC level 5 to a level 7.

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.

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 registered provider, 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.*

(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) The registered provider ensured there was a named designated person in charge. There was a named person who could deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider and designated person in charge were present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

Four adult's files were reviewed which included the registered provider:

(2)(a) There were 4 written validated references from past employers available in respect of the 4 adults working in the service.

(b) There were 4 written validated references on file in respect of the 4 adults were from a source other than the previous past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 3 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every 3 years.

(d) No staff had worked outside the jurisdiction for 6 months or more while over the age of 18 years of age and so in turn did not require police vetting for that jurisdiction.

(4) The registered provider ensured that all adults working directly with children had a major award of a minimum of FETAC level 5 to 7 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.

(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) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained, there were 2 adults working in the service with 13 pre-school children.

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.

Compliance Information

19(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS:

- The healthy eating policy was available for parents and guardians to view.
- The snacks supplied by the parents were healthy and nutritious and consisted of sandwiches, crackers, cheese, fresh fruit pieces, yogurts with milk or water available to children when needed. Perishable items were stored in the service fridge.
- Crockery and plates were offered and used during children's snack time and were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.
- All children attending the service were toilet trained and toileted independently or with some assistance or support by adults as required.
- The children's self-care was assisted and encouraged by adults for e.g. to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after using a tissue and after messy play. The previous week the service had an emphasis on brushing your teeth and all children were given a toothbrush.
- In the playroom the children had the opportunity to rest in a designated cosy area.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and encouragement. Children were shown positive strategies to manage their behaviour during the session.
- Children were encouraged to use positive social skills while playing outside and a group discussion was had in relation to respect, personal space, sharing, taking turns and this was lead by the adults.

- There was an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises and a sheltered area which was sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service.
- The play equipment and materials provided in the outdoor area supported a range of physically energetic activities and play experiences.
- The theme of the week was 'Science Week' and children carried out various experiments.

Programme of Activities and its Implementation:

- Each child had a learning journal identifying their likes and preferences, showing their art and crafts work for the year so far.
- A key person system was in place for each child to support their development and to inform curriculum planning. The role of the key person was to liaise with parents and guardians, conduct observations to support each child's developmental needs.
- The programme of care was flexible and guided by the children's choices. Children were supported by the staff during periods of individual and group-based activities. The staff sensitively supervised and intervened when necessary.
- The emerging interests were recorded to inform the short-term planning and emerging interests of children.
- Transitions between activities were well planned by staff and were carried out in a calm and relaxed environment. Good communication between adults in planning activities was observed.
- The service programme of activity and curriculum which was in place supported the individual needs of each child in line with their age and stage of development. The curriculum was based on different models of best practice in early childhood education.
- The service had short, medium and long-term learning goals for the children which were flexible depending on the children's emerging interests.
- The activities observed were both adult and child led, both indoors and outdoors with an emphasis of the children's emerging interests, wellbeing and development. As this was science week children conducted various experiments and discussed them.

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 a person trained in first aid for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Three adults had a current in date certificate as a first aid responder.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box in the playroom, with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service had in date adequate insurance for 18 preschool children on a sessional basis which was valid to 28/03/2026.