

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY036
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Name of Service:	Bo-Peep Daycare
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Address of Service:	Bolisheen, Corrandulla, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 HC6N
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Name of Registered Provider:	Majella Murphy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	36	PM	30
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla-Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance 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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Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

This privately owned preschool service is located at the rear of the registered providers home, in Bolisheen near Corrandulla, Co Galway. The full day care service caters for children aged between 0 and 6 years, from Monday to Friday between 07:45 and 17.00. This service offers the option of a part time care service, an (ECCE) Early Childhood Care and Education and sessional care programme from 09:30 to 12:30.

This preschool has three preschool rooms namely Playroom 1- Baby/Toddler room, Playroom 2- Junior Preschool room and Playroom 3- Senior Preschool room. The service has a designated sleep room adjacent to the Baby room with four cots. There is also sanitary accommodation with a nappy changing area off the Baby/Toddler room. Stackable beds are available for older children requiring sleep. Quiet rest areas are available in each of the playrooms for children to rest and relax. Food is prepared and cooked in a designated kitchen by a cook. The pre-school children have access to an outdoor play area at the rear of the premises for play activities, exploration and fresh air.

Staffing

There are a total of 10 adults working directly with preschool children in the service which includes the registered provider and there is also a cook. An external contractor works in the service one day of the week with children.

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 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, 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

(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)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and a named person was available to deputise.
- (b) The staff roster indicated that both the designated person in charge and deputy was on the premises while the pre-school children were present.
- (c) A management structure was available in the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Three new staff were employed since the last inspection on the 26 August 2025 and 6 adults required garda vetting renewal; these files were inspected.

- (2)(a) There were six of the required six written and validated references from previous employers for the three new adults employed in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (b) No written and validated references from a source other than past employer was available or required for the three new adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for the three new adults and the six adults who required the renewal of garda vetting. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting was available for one adult working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months and these were available for inspection.
- (4) There was evidence that 2 of the new adults who required a childcare qualification had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 7 to 8 on the National Framework of qualifications or a qualification deemed to be equivalent. The third adult did not require a qualification as the person was a contractor and did not work directly with children in the playrooms.

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 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) Records indicated that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) On the morning of the inspection day, there were 36 pre-school children with 8 adults directly caring for these children.

In the afternoon of the inspection day, there were 30 preschool children with 8 adults directly caring for these children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were on the premises during the operating hours of the preschool.

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

19(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the food observed was healthy and nutritious. Breakfast was served between 08:45 and 09:30. The main hot meal of the day was chicken curry with rice. Children's perishable items were stored in the service fridges.
- The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their snack in a relaxed and unhurried manner. Cutlery, plates and water were given to children during the hot meal and at snack times.
- The children had access to a water on a low-level table which allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty.
- Children were encouraged and supported by adults to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence.
- Hand washing was observed at appropriate times, it was observed prior to snack time, after outdoor play and toileting.
- Nappies were observed to be changed as required throughout the day and these were carried out in line with best practice by the adults.
- Children had the opportunity to sleep in the designated sleeproom and on stackable beds. Ten minute physical sleep checks were carried out by adults.
- Age appropriate tables and chairs were provided that met the needs of the children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Programme of Activities and its Implementation:

- 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.
- Each child had a learning journal identifying their likes and preferences and showing their art and craft and work so far for the year.
- The programme of care was flexible and guided by the children's choices. The adults sensitively supervised and intervened when necessary.
- Transitions between activities were well planned by adults and were carried out in a calm and relaxed environment.
- On review of the documentation of the service, they work in partnership with parents to enhance each individual child's learning experience while attending the service.
- 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 emerging interests were recorded to inform the short-term planning and emerging interests of children.
- 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.
- Children were observed in arts and crafts, playing games to music, circle time, at snack, dinner time and playing in the defined interest areas in the indoor and outdoor play areas
- The theme for the week was 'Easter and Spring', a lamb was brought into the service to show the children.

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 a person trained in first aid for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Two adults had current training in first aid responder for children. Their certificates were available and in date.
- (2)(a) There was two first aid boxes available for children, with content items within date, 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 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 fire fighting 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 available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 3 February 2026.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service date on the 9 March 2026. The smoke and fire detection alarm system had the last annual service date of the 30 July 2025.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire on the premises.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

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 insurance for a full day care service which was valid to the 27th of March 2026.