

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY040			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bright Beginnings Childcare			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Danesfort Drive, Loughrea, Co. Galway			
<b>Eircode:</b>	H62 NN97			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sarah Lyons			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	25/07/2024			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	31	PM	31
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A, 1st Floor- Green Corridor, Merlin Park, Galway.			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Meehan.			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector.			
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>				
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).				
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable			

### Description of service

This full day care service is in a private residential area, in the urban town of Loughrea, Co. Galway. The service caters for children aged between 0 and 6 years of age. The service is registered to open from Monday to Friday, between 8 am to 6 pm. An Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) pre-school care programme is also provided for 38 weeks of the year. The service has 2 sessions from 9 am to 12 pm and from 1 am to 4 pm. There are 5 playrooms, a kitchen, 2 designated sleep rooms, staff room and a manager's office.

### Staffing

The registered provider was on the premises and is the designated person in charge. There was also a named deputy manager. There are a total of twelve staff including the registered provider, a chef and 2 school aged staff. Ten staff hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of a Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.

### 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. 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, and*

*(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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy was available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.
- (c) Staff rosters and documentary evidence indicated that there was a clear management structure in the service, which identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.
- All twelve adult files were reviewed which included 8 adults directly working with children, 2 school aged adults, chef and the registered provider.
- (2)(a)(b) Twenty-four of the validated references on file in respect of the twelve adults were from past employers or a source other than a previous employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the twelve adults. All garda vetting documentation was dated within the last 3 years as per the regulatory notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
- (d) Police vetting disclosures was not required any of the adults as they had not lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) Ten adults who were working directly with children, held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), at a Level 5 to 8, 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.*

*(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 morning and afternoon of the inspection, there were thirty-one preschool children present with 6 adults working directly with, caring and supervising these children.
- The registered provider provided relief cover in the playrooms.
- (2) The roster indicated that the adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the day.

### 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

(1)(a)

#### BASIC NEEDS

- The food was observed to be healthy and nutritious, children had at 10 am a selection of fruit, homemade scones and cheese. The main hot meal of the day was chicken, vegetables and gravy and was served at 12.15 pm. The afternoon snack at 2.30 was supplied by the parents.
- Drinks in children's own bottles and beakers of water was available in the playrooms, and outdoor area, to allow a child to self-serve.
- The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- Appropriate crockery and plates were provided for children at meal, snack times to enhance the social experience for the children.
- Eight children had their nappies changed in a designated nappy changing area as required throughout the day.

- Older children who were toilet trained either toileted independently or with some assistance as required by the adults.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating on the child size wipeable couches, matting and cushions in designated cosy areas in each of the playrooms.
- Children’s behaviour was consistently managed in a competent and positive manner by the staff.
- The children could move about freely in their playrooms. All children had the opportunity to go outside for fresh air and play activities.

### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- A key worker system was in place for each child; to support their development and to inform curriculum planning. The role of the key worker was also to liaise with parents and guardians.
- Communication with parents and the child’s information was provided at collection times, via text messages, by phone calls, by email and by a multimedia application for interactive communication with parents and guardians.
- Adults were observed to work well together as a team carrying out their daily tasks and communicating effectively for each activity.
- Transitions between activities for children were calm and smooth during the day, which in turn lead to a calm environment and relaxed children.
- Children were observed playing in the outdoor area, at table top activities, playing in the clearly defined interest areas and engaging with other children and adults.

## 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 an adult was trained in first aid responder for children and was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Nine other adults had paediatric first aid for children.

- (2)(a) There was a first aid box with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was 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's insurance specifying the address of the service, catering for a full day care service for 60 children at any one time, with an expiry date of 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2025, was available.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (b) safe and secure,*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (b)
1. The swings, and rockers / see saws in the outdoor play area were anchored and had an impact absorbing surface.
- (e)
2. In the ground floor designated nappy changing area, there was an adequate number of nappy changing units and wash hand basins.