

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY042			
Name of Service:	Bright Beginnings Pre-School			
Address of Service:	Kilchreest N.S, Kilchreest, Loughrea, Co Galway.			
Eircode:	H62 N766			
Name of Registered Provider:	Aisling Kelly			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	04/06/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	0
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Co. 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			

Description of service

This sessional service is in a designated prefabricated unit, on the grounds of the national school, in the rural village of Kilchreest, county Galway. The service operating hours are 9.15 am to 12.20 pm, from Monday to Friday. The service caters for children aged between 3 and 6 years and can cater for up to 22 preschool children. The service offers a Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) and sessional pre-school care programmes. The service has an outdoor play area to the side of the service for children to play and enjoy the fresh air.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service and there is a named deputy person available. Three staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), at a Level 6 to 8, in Early Childhood Care 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 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

- 04/06/2025 An Immediate Action Notice was issued under Regulation 25 First Aid (1), the registered provider did not ensure that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the preschool service
- 06/06/2025 The registered provider stated in her response that all staff will be trained in first aid and 2 staff will have first aid training on the 07/06/2025.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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) The registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The deputy manager 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 were available when the pre-school children were present.
- All 3 adult files were reviewed which included the registered providers:
- (2) (a) Six of the required 6 written and validated references were from past employers.
- None of the required 6 written and validated references were from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the 3 adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for 1 adult who had lived in another state longer than 6 months.
- (4) Three adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from a Level 6 and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (2) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. There were 2 adults working directly caring for 13 pre-school children.
- (8)(c) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises while the pre-school was operating.

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:

- The healthy eating policy was available for parents and guardians to view.
- The snacks were supplied by the parents and were healthy, and nutritious. They consisted of sandwiches, crackers, cheese, fresh fruit pieces, yogurts with milk or water available to children when needed.
- Crockery and plates were offered during children's snack times 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.
- In the playroom the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couch in designated cosy area and the service also had a sensory room where children could take time out and relax.
- There was an outdoor play area to the side of the premises 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 month was 'Life cycle of a Chicken and Butterfly'. Children had hatched out chickens in the service and were observing a caterpillar.
- Children were observed in sensory play, artwork, imaginary play and observing the newly hatched chicks.

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

Infection Control:

1. Perishable food from children's lunch boxes were not kept in a refrigerator at temperatures between 0 to 5°C. The perishable food remained in the children's bags, in the lobby area, this may present as a safety risk to a preschool child. This was a non-compliance on the last inspection on the 10 November 2022.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The kitchenette will be secured over the next few weeks while the service is closed. We will ensure in future that children will not have access to this area.

Infection Control:

2. The infection control, food safety policy and parent's handbook were updated to include the storage of children's perishable items. Staff will ensure in future that perishable items will be stored in the service fridge.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A quote to carry out the work by a carpenter was submitted as evidence.

Infection Control:

2. A copy of the updated policies was submitted as evidence.

Summary Comment

1 & 2 The evidence submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate has been reviewed and has met the requirements of this part of the Regulations.

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

(2) (a) Suitably equipped first aid box was available in the playroom.

(b) First aid supplies were available and in date in the playroom for use by the adults in the event of an emergency with the preschool children.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) On review of the 3 adult files which included the registered provider there was no one rostered with in date first aid or first aid responder certificate during the operation of the sessional service. This may pose as a risk to a preschool child. An immediate action notice was issued on the 04 June 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider responded to say:

On the 06/06/2025 the registered provider responded to the immediate action notice to say that that 2 staff will have first aid training. The registered provider stated in their response that they provide cover for first aid during the operational hours of the service until the staff had completed first aid training.

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service will ensure that a first aid responder will be on the premises during the operation of the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documented evidence of first aid training.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted was reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and has been deemed to have met the requirements.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had evidence of in date insurance for a sessional service for up to 22 preschool children and was valid until the 27 March 2026.