

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY059
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Name of Service:	Wild Roots Preschool
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Address of Service:	Croi an Bhaile, Carrabane, Athenry, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H65 Y766
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Name of Registered Provider:	Nicola Gavaghan
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	21/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	7
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Kelly, K. Folan
Title:	Early Years Inspectors.

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

This service operates a full day care early years' service for children aged from 2 years to 6 years. The service operates from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday. This service is located in a purpose-built building in Carrabane village in county Galway. This service has 2 playrooms and a kitchen. It also has a well-equipped outdoor area which is accessible from the playrooms.

Staffing

There were total of 6 adults working in the service on the day. The registered provider was present on the day of inspection.

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, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report. On inspection additional non-compliances which posed a risk were identified under Regulation 20, 23, 24 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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

On the 21/05/2025- An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider in relation to the lack of training of staff and the lack of a specific care plan for a named child in relation in the administration of emergency medication.

23/03/25- The registered provider stated that staff training will take place but in the interim period the named child would not attend the service.

27/03/25- The registered provider submitted a signed care plan and a letter from the child's parent.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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-

- (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.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspections, the registered provider was in charge and there was also a named person who could deputise.
- (2) Following a review of the service files and discussion with the register provider it was confirmed that there were no new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. However, the service did not demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every 3 years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 5 staff members caring for 28 pre-school children attending the morning session.

At 3pm on the day of inspection, there were 2 staff members caring for the 7 pre-school children in attendance.

(2) Senior Playroom- there were 3 adults working with 15 children.

Junior playroom- there were 2 adults working with 13 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, and

Compliance Information

Basic Needs

- The service ensured that food and snacks were available to the children throughout the day. For morning and afternoon snack, children brought in food from home which consisted of a selection of brown bread, sandwiches, fruit, hummus and crackers.

- The service provided a hot meal to the children attending which was chicken with pasta, tomato sauce, carrots and cheese.
- Drinking water was available to the children throughout the day, including outdoors where staff reminded children to take regular drinks, as the weather on the day was warm and sunny.
- Children who required sleep were facilitated with a scheduled rest in the afternoon.
- The children had access to the outdoor area and on the day of the inspection, each group spent time playing outdoors.

Supporting Relationships

- During mealtime staff members engaged in social conversation with the children, promoting a relaxed atmosphere.
- Staff were observed speaking kindly to the children and acknowledging children's achievements such as completing an activity.
- Staff appeared to work well together, communicating throughout the day to plan activities and in relation to children's needs.

Physical environment

- The outdoor environment had ample space for children to run and play outside. Children engaged in energetic play on an all-weather surface. Ride on toys such as balance bikes were provided for children.
- Open ended materials were provided for play such as large plastic building blocks, planks of wood, bark and a variety of jugs for pouring and scooping sensory materials.
- A wooden structure outdoors was divided into different sections such as a café and a post office which provided opportunity for the children to use their imagination, as well as providing shelter when needed.
- The senior playroom had a range of play based materials that offered stimulation and opportunity to children. Interest areas were spacious and uncluttered allowing unhindered access for all children. Materials were stored on low level shelving, which facilitated choice and nurtured independence.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The Senior playroom was converted into a sleep room for 2 children over the age of 2 years that required sleep. The children had access to stackable beds and individual bed linen.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The Junior playroom was not supplied with adequate materials to support children’s play and learning. For example.

- The play kitchen area was poorly stocked with accessories. The kitchen unit was broken and void of toys.
- The dress up clothes were in poor condition and all in a bundle on the ground making it difficult for the children to pick and choose what they wanted to play with.
- The books in the library area were in poor condition, many were ripped and torn.
- The work bench was void of any tools or toy accessories.
- The dolls and dolls accessories were in poor condition and they were poorly displayed. This did not make it attractive for the young children to want play with them.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service is currently closed to make necessary renovations. This non-compliance will be rectified on reopening in August 2025.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 11/07/25 the registered provider submitted photographs of renovation works taking place in the creche kitchen and in the children sanitary area.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider did not address the non-compliances outlined in regulation 20.

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:

1. Garda vetting was reviewed for 1 named staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Administration of Medication:

2. On the day of inspection, it was recorded in a child's record that they had severe allergies. However, the registered provider was unable to demonstrate or describe the procedures for managing a medical emergency, should one arise in relation to this child. A signed care plan from the parents was not in place on the day of inspection.

21/05/2025- An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider, in relation to the lack of training of staff and the lack of a specific care plan for a named child in relation in the administration of emergency medication.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective & Preventive Action

1. Garda vetting for the named staff member was obtained. A person is now employed to oversee all the staff files are ensure all files are updated regularly.
2. No corrective or preventive actions were submitted to the Early years inspector for review.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 23/05.25 a copy of the application for garda vetting was submitted to the Early year's inspectorate, However, proof that this application was completed was not submitted to the Early year's inspectorate.

27/05/25- The registered provider submitted a signed care plan and proof of training from the child's parent in relation to the administration of emergency medication.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider did not address the non-compliances outlined in regulation 23 point 1 and 2.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) An accurate record of each child's attendance was not kept on a daily basis.

On the day of inspection, a child that was listed in the Junior playroom attendance book was attending the Senior playroom. This child's attendance record was blank for the day of the inspection and also for the previous day.

This was at variance with the services drop and collection of children policy where it stated that children's attendance must be recorded on a daily basis.

This posed a risk to both staff and children in the event of an emergency. This non-compliance was also highlighted on the previous inspection report dated the 12/11/2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff have been informed of their roles and responsibilities in relation to record keeping. Staff will be supervised on a daily basis.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider did not adequately address the non-compliances outlined in regulation 24.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service was adequately insured for the number of children attending on a daily basis. The expiry date on the certificate of insurance was listed as the 27/03/2025. The certificate stated that they are insured to cater for 45 children attending the full day care service.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

(d) The following non compliances could pose a safety risk to the children attending.

1. There were areas of bare plaster present on the ceiling of the kitchen, resulting from unfinished construction work to rectify the presence of mould at the previous inspection dated the 12/11/2024.
2. There were areas of peeling paint around the window in the Junior playrooms, peeling paint was observed to be present on the floor.
3. Areas of the rust were present on the radiator adjacent to the hand washing sink in the Junior playroom.

(e)

4. On the day of inspection, there were 3 wash hand basins in the children's sanitary area when 4 were required. This was highlighted in a previous report, dated the 25/01/2023. The registered provider had stated in the corrective and preventive action plan that a new wash hand basin would be installed; however, this had not taken place.
5. There was no hot water for effective hand washing in the sinks in the nappy changing area and in the Junior playroom.
6. The tap was broken in the low-level hand washing sink in Junior playroom. This sink and the surrounding paint work was also badly stained and was not clean.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service is now closed for renovations and all necessary works will be carried out to ensure that they comply with regulations. The service will be reopening in August 2025.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 24/05/2025, the registered provider submitted a photograph of the completed paint work in the kitchen area.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider did not adequately address the non-compliances as outlined in the regulation 29.