

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY081
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Name of Service:	Dun Beag Creche
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Address of Service:	Breanra, Dunmore, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H54 FY93
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Name of Registered Provider:	Phyllis Reddington
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	18/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	75	PM	56
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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
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

This service opened in September 2001 and operates a full day care early years' service for children aged from 6 months to 6 years. The service operates from 07.30 to 18.30, Monday to Friday and can cater for a maximum of 100 children. The service is in single storey building in north county Galway. There are 6 playrooms, 3 dedicated sleep rooms, a dining room and a kitchen area. The service has access to a large outdoor play area located to the side of the premises. This space is divided into smaller areas accessed from all the different playrooms. The children have access to a large range of outdoor equipment and experiences.

Staffing

On the day of inspection there were 14 adults working directly with the children and the service manager facilitated the 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 and 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 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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 service manager was the designated person in charge and there were 2 named persons who were able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the service manager was the person in charge and was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.
- (2) Following a review of the service files and discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that there were 24 members of staff employed in the service, including the cook, maintenance manager and the registered provider.
- (a) Of the 48 references required, there were 33 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer.
- (b) Of the required 48 references, there were 15 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all the staff working in the service. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every 3 years.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosures were available for 7 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) There were 21 adults working directly with the children who had evidence of an award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) from level 5 to level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education or qualifications deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) There were 2 police vetting disclosures available for 2 staff members that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months. These police vetting disclosures were provided in a language other than english and were not translated through a reputable source. This may pose a risk to the children as

appropriate vetting procedures were not carried out prior to the staff member commencing employment in the service.

- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were not carried out prior to the staff member being appointed, assigned or allowed access or contact with a child attending the service, therefore may posed a risk to the children attending the service.
- (4) There was 1 adult working directly with the children who was unable to provide evidence that they had acquired a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. The copy of the person's qualification was presented in a language other than english and was not translated through a reputable source.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

(9)(2)(d), (3) & (4) The human resource manager and manager have been informed to follow up with all vetting procedures prior to any adult commencing employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (9)
- (2)(d) Copies of outstanding police vetting were submitted, translated and stamped in english for 2 adults.
- (3) The statement from the registered provider has been accepted.
- (4) The registered provider submitted a copy of the recognised childcare qualification translated and stamped in english for 1 adult.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and documented evidence provided by the registered provider has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors and has been deemed to have met the requirements under these parts of the Regulations.

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.

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) 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 75 pre-school children, attending the morning session and 56 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

(3) At 10.30 on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.

- Toddlers room- there were 3 adults caring for 13 children aged between 24 months and 36 months.
- Playschool room- there was 3 adults caring for 13 children aged 3 years.
- Nursery room- there were 2 adults caring for 7 babies aged between 12 months and 18 months.
- Wobbler room- there were 3 adults caring for 14 children aged between 18 months and 2 years of age.
- ECCE 1- there were 2 adults caring for 8 children aged between 3 years and 3 years six months old.
- Montessori- there were 3 adults caring for 20 children aged between 4 and 4 years six months old.

At 15.15 on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.

- Toddlers room- there were 2 adults caring for 10 children aged between 24 months and 36 months.
- Playschool room- there was 2 adults caring for 14 children aged 3 years of age.
- Nursery room- there were 2 adults caring for 6 babies aged between 12 months and 18 months.
- Wobbler room- there were 3 adults caring for 10 children aged between 18 months and 2 years old.
- ECCE- there were 2 adults caring for 16 children aged between 3 years and 3 years six months old.

(8)(a) The staff roster indicated that there were 2 staff members on the premises at all times.

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)

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the food observed was healthy and nutritious. The main meal of the day consisted of chicken curry, rice, sweet corn or sweet and sour chicken. The snacks provided by parent and guardians consisted of a selection of sandwiches, fruit and yogurts.
- Children in the Montessori room were given the opportunity to serve their main meal of the day. The children were divided into 3 groups, each table had 3 bowls of food (chicken curry, rice, and sweetcorn) and each child got to serve their dinner. The children took turns and got the opportunity to have a second serving if they wished. The staff sat with the children. When the children had finished their lunch, they were encouraged to wipe off their plates and stack them neatly on the table. The staff members praised the children's independence. The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their meal in a relaxed and unhurried manner
- Age-appropriate crockery and plates were given to children during mealtimes, laid out on age-appropriate low tables.
- The children had access to a water station on low-level tables in all the playrooms, that allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence. This was observed when staff caring for the younger children offered and helped with pulling up their sleeves and putting on bibs during mealtimes.
- Each child's privacy and dignity were preserved while they were either toileted independently or with some assistance as required. The sanitary areas were all conveniently located adjacent to all the playrooms.
- Nappy changing took place as required throughout the day and the correct procedure in line with best practise was observed. Adults were observed to be caring in their interaction with children at nappy changing.

- Younger children had the opportunity to sleep when they were tired and not just at set times during the day. On the day of inspection, children over the age of 2 years had the opportunity to sleep and rest on stackable beds. One playroom was converted into a sleep room after lunch. The staff were observed staying with the children while they slept. One staff member was observed sitting beside a child rubbing their back as they settled to sleep.
- Sleep checks were done at regular intervals and recorded on a multimedia application on a tablet. Parents had direct access to this information.
- On the day of inspection, the children were observed playing in the outdoor area which had a variety of special interest areas. Each playroom had direct access to an outdoor space which had covered and uncovered areas. At specific times during the inspection, the doors of the playrooms leading to the outdoor spaces were left open and the children had free movement and could decide if they wanted to play indoors or outdoors throughout the session. The outdoor play areas were in use for a sizable portion of the day.
- Younger children had a safe and comfortable area from which to play, which was separate from the space used by older children.
- The staff were observed to be caring and supportive in their interactions with the children. The staff interacted in a positive way with the children e.g., they sat at children's level, maintained good eye contact, showed empathy and a good understanding of each child.
- The programme of activity was flexible and guided by the children's choices. Children were supported by the staff during periods of individual and group-based activities. There was evidence of using the emergent interests of the children when the staff were planning the program of activities. One staff member informed the inspector that when the children were playing with the homemade fairy village, they were discussing the opportunity of developing a mural to enhance the appearance of the fairy village. The staff members made a note on how this could be incorporated into the planning of activities for the following week.

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:

On the day of inspection, there were 3 cot mattresses in the sleep room adjacent to the Wobbler room that did not have a wipeable surface or did not have a waterproof mattress protector sheet, which posed a risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Infection Control:

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective & Preventive Action

Mattress protectors have been purchased for 3 cots. We will ensure in the future that cots will have a wipeable surface or waterproof mattress protector in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

A receipt for the purchase of 4 waterproof mattress protectors was received by the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and the evidence submitted by the registered provider 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

- (1) Three staff working in the pre-school service had current first aid responder qualifications and 1 had first aid training.
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible conspicuous position in the main office and there was a basic first aid box in each of the playrooms.
- (b) The first aid box was readily available to all the children attending the 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 firefighting 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) Written records of the fire drills undertaken in the service were kept by staff with the last fire drill recorded as having been undertaken on the 15/10/2025.
- (1)(b) A certificate of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the fire alarm system was dated for October 2025.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous positions in the service.