

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY084
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Name of Service:	Enfant Educare
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Address of Service:	Roughan, Ardrahan, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91P642
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anna Moran, Susan Kennedy
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	17/06/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	72	PM	50
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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 2016. This service operates a full day care early years' service for children aged from 6 months to 3 years. The service operates from 7.30am to 6.15pm, Monday to Friday and can cater for a maximum of 85 children. This service is in a purpose-built building in the village of Ardrahan, county Galway. The service had 4 playrooms downstairs and 2 playrooms upstairs, 2 sleep rooms and a kitchen area. It also had an outdoor area that can be accessed directly from the downstairs playrooms and a covered sheltered area and grassed play area at the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were 18 staff working on the premises which included the 2 registered providers.

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.

On inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 and regulation 20. As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms name room Toddlers room, Little Wobblers and the Tiny Treasures Playroom.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 providers were the designated persons in charge and there was a named person available to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy person in charge was designated person in charge when the inspector arrived and within a short time the registered providers arrived at the service and facilitated the inspection.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with one of the registered provider's it was confirmed that there were 18 staff members employed in the service.

(2)(a) Thirty-four of the required 36 references required were sourced from past employers and were validated.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, 2 references were obtained from a source other than a past employer and were validated.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 18 staff. The service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every 3 years. Please refer to information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police Vetting disclosures was available for 3 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months

(4) Eighteen adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education from a level 5 to a level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework 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.

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 day, there were 13 staff caring for 72 pre-school children attending the service in the morning and 50 preschool children attending in the afternoon.
At 10.00 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.
- (2) Toddlers room (2 years and 3 years)- there were 3 adults caring for 17 children.
- Wobbler room (1 year and 3 months to 2 years 6 months)- there were 3 adults caring for 14 children.
- Babies (1 baby less than 12 months and 4 babies aged over 12 months)- there were 2 adults caring for 5 children.
- Little learners (ECCE)- there were 3 adults caring for 17 children.
- Tiny treasures (over 3 years 6 months)- there were 2 adults caring for 12 children.
- Little wobblers (18 months to 25 months)-there were 2 adults caring for 7 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 main meal of the day was pasta, meat, vegetables and tomato sauce. The younger children in the little wobbler room were encouraged to self-feed. The staff members sat with the children and assisted the children when required- they were observed asking the children if they needed assistance. The children in the Toddlers room were observed bringing their plates/bowls to the sink after they had finished and settled into another activity until they all had finished.
- Children had their nappies changed when required and not just at dedicated times.
- Boxes of tissues were available in all the playrooms for the children to use.
- Staff allowed the children to sleep or rest when they are tired and not just as a dedicated time. The children had a sleeping routine that they were familiar with, but they could also sleep at other times, if they needed to.

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-

(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 children attending the Toddler room, played in the shelter outdoor area after their lunch. While they were using this space the staff members converted their playroom into a sleep room. Stackable beds were placed around the room ensuring that there was 50 cm between each bed for infection control purposes and to allow staff ample space to attend to each child while they slept. When the children returned after outdoor play they were observed washing their hands in the adjacent sanitary area. Each child took off their shoes and outer clothing and placed them at the bottom of each of their stackable beds. The staff stayed with the children and did regular 10 minutes sleep checks on the children while they slept.
- Children in the Wobbler room were put to sleep in the cot room connected to their playroom. The children slept after their lunch time. They were observed to be put down to sleep in cots. The staff members sat with the children while they slept and one staff member was observed soothing a young child that was finding it difficult to sleep. The staff members did physical checks and recorded the time, the position of the child, colour and who did the check every 10 minutes.

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) There were First Aid Response (FAR) training certificates available for 3 staff members with expiry dates of 26 January 2026 and there were certificates for paediatric first aid training with expiry dates for March 2026 for 8 staff working in the service.
- (2)
- (a)(b) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available in the main kitchen area and was available to the children at all times.

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 disclosure were available for two named staff members. However, the two 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'.

Infection Control:

2. There was 1 mattress in the little wobbler sleep room that had a wipeable covering, the other 4 had waterproof mattress protection sheets under the cot sheets. There was no evidence available that these

protective covers were changed after the change of sheets. This posed a risk of cross infection for the children using the cots.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was obtained for the 1 member of staff and we are awaiting the return of the 2nd staff member. This disclosure will be forwarded to the Early year's inspectorate when we receive it. In future, Garda vetting disclosures will be applied for 30 days prior to the expiry date.

Infection Control:

2. Water proof protection sheets were purchased and staff were informed that these covers must be changed in rotation with the cot bed linen

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

On the 17/07/2025, the registered provider submitted the following evidence to the Early Years inspectorate:

1. A copy of 1 of the outstanding garda vetting

Infection Control:

2. Copies of 2 receipts, giving details of the purchase of 11 waterproof cot mattress protectors.

Summary Comment

The actions and the evidence submitted were reviewed. This regulation remains non-compliant as 1 of the 2 points remains outstanding. Garda vetting for the 2nd staff member remains outstanding.

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 03/06/2025.
- (1)(b) A certificate of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was dated for October 2024 and the smoke alarms was dated for the 22/05/2025 and was available for inspection.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous positions in the service.