

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE007
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Name of Service:	Nursery Rhymes
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Address of Service:	Coill Dubh, Naas, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W91 RF76
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tracey Bryne
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
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).

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Description of service

Nursery Rhymes is a privately owned early year's service located in Coill Dubh, Co Kildare. The service operates from the ground floor of a purposefully built premises and comprises of two care rooms, sanitary facilities, a kitchen and an outdoor space to the rear and side of the building. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme is offered from 9.30am to 12.30pm for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

There were five staff present working directly with the children and the registered provider arrived subsequent to the inspector's arrival to facilitate 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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9 (1) (a) (b) 2 (a) (b) (c) (d) 4 - Management and recruitment

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11 (1) (3), Staffing levels

16 – Record in relation to a preschool service

19 (1) (a) Health, welfare and development of child

23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

25 – First Aid

26 – Fire Safety

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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

(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 had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.

(b)

The designated person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and remained present for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The recruitment records for six staff were reviewed on inspection and met compliance as follows:

- (a) Eight validated references from a past employer were available.
- (b) Four validated references from a reputable Source were available.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for six adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.

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(d) International Police vetting was not required as no adult had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months.

(4)

Documentation was available to show that all adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1)

On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children to meet their care needs. There were five adults available to facilitate the care and education of 20 children on the day of inspection.

(3)

The required adult to child ratio was maintained for the duration of the inspection

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)

(h) The attendance of the preschool children was recorded as they arrived and left the service.

(i) There was a staff roster in place which reflected the staffing levels on the day of inspection.

(k) A sample of 10 accident and incident records were reviewed. All the required details and signatures were recorded.

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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)

Children's learning, development and wellbeing was facilitated during the inspection as follows:

The parents and guardians of the children provided all snacks for the children which included a variety of foods including sandwiches, fruit and yoghurts.

Children's independence was supported throughout the morning, for example, they were encouraged to use the toilet independently, manage their own belongings and attend to personal care needs with appropriate guidance from staff. Children were observed to put on their coats prior to going outside and staff were observed praising them reinforcing positive social interactions.

The service promoted choice with all toys and equipment available on low level shelving and children being afforded the opportunity to engage in their own play together with staff providing specific activities such as painting for the children should they wish to engage. Staff demonstrated strong relationships with children and used spontaneous moments during play to extend children's learning for example staff were observed to participate in the children's play when engaging in a game of hide and seek creating a fun atmosphere in Room 1. Verbal cues together with a timer were used to signal to children that the end of an activity was approaching. This provided the children with the opportunity to prepare and transition to the next activity in an unhurried manner. Staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children. For example, when a child became upset staff immediately reacted and dropped to the child's level and offered the child comfort and reassurance. Staff sat with children at lunch time and were observed to actively listen and engage with children's interests promoting positive social interactions. Children displayed pride and a sense of responsibility when given the job of helper for the day in Room 2.

The care rooms were spacious and contained varied provisions for play and learning. There were materials and equipment suitable for the age range and number of children attending the service. There were low level shelving units so that the children could easily access the materials and there were sufficient child sized tables and chairs for the number of children attending. The shelving contained activities including a variety of table top activities,

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puzzles, art and construction activities which promoted choice and independence. The care room had defined areas of interest including a home corner, and a rest area with books.

There were two separate outdoor areas to the side and rear of the service which contained sand play, large construction toys and ride on toys. The children were observed to play outdoors on the day of inspection which gave them further opportunities for active and sociable play.

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.

Compliance Information

Appropriate measures had been taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children and staff in attendance as demonstrated below:

General Safety:

Access to the service was secure ensuring no unauthorised access to or from the building. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children. Heavy furniture was secured and cables were out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled warm water was available to the children along with liquid soap and paper towels. Pedal bins were available throughout the service. The service was maintained in a clean condition. Children were observed to wash their hands prior to snack time and after using the toilet.

Fire Safety:

All emergency exits were kept clear of obstruction and regular monthly fire drills took place.

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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 was evidence to show that five adults held certification in First Aid Responder training, all adults were available for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and stored safely in an easily accessible and prominent position in a press in the care room and was available to the children at all times.