

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KE055			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bright Beginnings			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Bungalow 1, Dunmurray Road, Kildare, Co. Kildare			
<b>Eircode:</b>	R51 D276			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Audrey Lynch			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	21/06/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	137	PM	88
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F. Maher, T. Duignan			
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Bright Beginnings is one of three private services operated by the registered provider in Kildare town and Brownstown the Curragh. A full day care service is provided to children aged between 0-6 years old and opens Monday to Friday from 07:00am-18:30pm. Sessional and part-time care is also provided for pre-school children. The service is a registered to provide school age care.

The service is located in a terrace of adapted and extended bungalows in Kildare town. 10 pre-school rooms, 2 dedicated sleep rooms, a kitchen, an office, and staff room are located in the main building and 2 further pre-school rooms are located in single-story premises located at the rear of the play area. Several outdoor play areas, including a large, covered play area are located to the rear and side of the premises.

### Staffing

There were forty-six staff members employed in the service, this included two kitchen staff and three staff responsible for school aged care and garden maintenance duties. The registered provider was not present and does not work directly with the children. Thirty-eight people were present in the service on the day of inspection, this included twenty-eight staff members working directly with the children, four staff providing relief including one supervisor, the service manager, two deputy managers, two kitchen staff and one person employed for the care of school aged children.

### 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19(1)(a) as a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms 222, 223, 215 and 217, rooms 220 and 224 were unoccupied in the morning as the children were off site for graduation rehearsal.

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 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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),(b)

There was a designated person in charge and a named persons to deputise as required.

The records of 47 staff members employed and/or present in the service, including the registered provider, were reviewed.

(2)(a),(b)

94 written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of 47 records reviewed.

(c)

Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 47 employed staff members and the registered provider.

(d)

Police vetting was available for 12 staff members who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(3)

The procedures specified in paragraph (2) had been completed prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4)

Thirty-eight members of staff employed and who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework. Three staff members were in possession of a letter of eligibility to practice issued by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

## 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)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

### Compliance Information

(1)  
There were 137 children attending the service being supervised directly by 28 staff members and 4 relief staff members.

(2)  
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6.

(8)(a)  
There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the inspection, this was verified by the up-to-date staff roster.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

*A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

(a),(b),(c)

The registered provider ensured that a copy of the regulations was available in the service. This was open to inspection on the premises when requested from the person in charge by the early years' inspector.

### 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

##### Physical and material environment

The pre-school room environments sampled were thoughtfully designed and decorated to create interesting spaces to prompt children to engage in self-directed and imaginative play appropriate to their developmental ages and stages. Interest areas included home corners, construction areas, small world materials, art and craft area, puzzles and jigsaws, sensorial materials and climbing and balance cushions.

In room 215, a dedicated sensorial area was in place for children to explore and investigate and room 217 had a large wooden shaped airplane which provided a space for children to pretend play and use their imagination.

Rest areas with comfortable child sized couches and library corners were available in all rooms. The younger care rooms, accommodating the toddler and wobbler children aged 1-2 and 2-3 years old, were well resourced with an array of sensorial materials including textiles, sand and water, shredded paper and dried goods such as couscous/pasta.

Room 223 had a large ball pool area and young children were observed thoroughly enjoying immersing themselves among the small balls. Plastic toys were kept to a minimum with an emphasis on wooden toys and natural materials. Children’s artwork was displayed in each of the care rooms reviewed.

All children had use of secure play areas located at the side and rear of the premises for outdoor play throughout the day. The garden area was arranged with various areas of interest and included a messy play area with mud kitchen and wooden tepee, a planting area and a sand/digging area with child sized sit-on diggers. A dedicated area to promote gross motor development and balance included, tyres, small climbing wall, a climbing frame with slide, football goals and smaller plastic climbing frames for the younger children was also available. There was a large, covered area at the side of the premises to facilitate outdoor play during inclement weather and included tables and chairs for tabletop and art and craft activities and was equipped with a play kitchen/home corner and utensils.

### 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

##### General Safety:

The entrance doors to the service were secured and controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Both side gates were secured with bolt locking mechanisms on the inside. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. The service manager completed indoor and outdoor risk assessments daily to promptly manage any risk identified.

##### Infection Control:

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted units, were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children’s handwashing and handwashing routines were well established.

Nappy changing was carried out, as observed, in line with the nappy change policy of the service. Gloves, plastic aprons, and nappy sacks were available for hygienic nappy changing practices. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues, nappies and paper towel.

Bed linen was individual to each child and was labelled and stored accordingly. There was a system in place for the immediate sterilisation of mouthed toys and soothers. Soothers when not in use, were stored after sterilising in individual labelled containers.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for all room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Cleaning staff were employed to clean the premises after hours.

**Administration of Medication:**

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection and staff members, advised during conversations with the inspectors, they were aware of the procedures to be followed to administer medicine safely to a child if required while attending the service. Medicine forms reviewed were completed in full and stored with the individual child's records.

**Safe Sleep:**

It was observed that 10-minute sleep check observations were completed on all sleeping children and the staff documented the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children in their care. The staff members, in conversation with the inspector, advised they were familiar with current best practice guidelines in relation to reducing the risk of sudden infant death syndrome. Both sleep rooms were ventilated by means of openable windows and standalone air conditioning units were in place to control the environmental room temperatures.

**Fire Safety:**

Regular monthly fire drills were carried out and records maintained. All fire exits were easily identifiable and unobstructed.

**Outing:**

An outings policy was in place to guide safe practice if undertaking an outing.

### 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.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) no person other than-
    - (i) pre-school child attending the service,
    - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,
    - (iii) an employee, or
    - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and
  - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

#### Compliance Information

- (1)  
The manager of the service ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained for the pre-school rooms sampled.
- (2)  
Not applicable as this was not a drop-in service.
- (3) (a),(b)  
The person in charge ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.
- (4)  
The person in charge confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

## 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)  
Persons trained in first aid response (FAR) were immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)(a),(b)  
The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in conspicuous positions in the service and immediately available for the children at all times.

## 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)  
A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place 23 May 2023.
- (b)  
A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were last serviced 3 November 2022 and 29 March 2023 respectively.
- (4)  
Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 May 2024. The insurance provided cover for 220 children.