

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE061
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Name of Service:	Funbugs Childcare
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Address of Service:	Rathmore, Eadestown, Naas, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W91 ED23
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Name of Registered Provider:	Conall Boran
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	61	PM	40
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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 and R Flynn
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

Funbugs Childcare is an early years' service located in the village of Rathmore, Eadestown, Co Kildare. Opening hours are 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and full day care and education is provided to children aged 1 to 6 years. The service also provides a sessional service from 9.00am to 12.00pm Monday to Friday which facilitates the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme for 38 weeks per year. The premises comprises of a single storey, purposely adapted building with seven childcare rooms, a sleep room, sanitary facilities, a kitchen, and a fully enclosed outdoor area divided into separate areas to the front and rear of the building. On the day of inspection five care rooms were operational.

Staffing

The service employs 22 adults including a manager, deputy, a cook and two staff members who work with school age children in attendance. On the day of inspection there were 15 adults working directly with the children. The manager, deputy and an additional staff member were available to assist in the care rooms when required. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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

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This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, 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:

Regulation 9 (1) (a,b), (2) (a-d), (3), (4) Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 (1), (2) Staffing Levels

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

Regulation 23 Safety

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 (1) and regulation 19 (1)(a)(b). As a result, the scope of the inspection included Butterflies, Busy Bees, Ladybirds and Steady Snails rooms.

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.

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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, 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) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.

(b) The person in charge and the deputy person in charge were on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure, and adults demonstrated an understanding of their roles and responsibilities and the lines of authority within the service.

(2) Conversation with the person in charge confirmed that 14 new adults commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 14 August 2025. Documentation required under Regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of the adults as detailed below.

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The requirements of Regulation 9(2)(c) relating to Garda Vetting was reviewed for all adults who worked in the service.

- (2)
- (a) Twenty-one written and validated references were available from past employers.
 - (b) Seven written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 22 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available in respect of 9 adults who had lived outside of the State for a period longer than six months as an adult.
- (3) Documentation reviewed evidenced the procedures specified above had been carried out prior to the adults commencing employment in the service.
- (4) Documentation was available to show that all adults working directly with the preschool children 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.*
- (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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children to meet their care needs.
- (2) The service maintained appropriate adult to child ratios for the duration of the inspection. There were 15 adults available to 61 children in the morning and 11 adults available to 40 children in the afternoon.

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;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (h)
Details of the attendance of each child were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service in written form and on a software application.
- (i)
The staff roster was available on the day of inspection and reflected the adults working in the service.
- (j)
A sample of 16 medication administration records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.
- (k)
A sample size of 15 accident and incident forms were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

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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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

Upon arrival, the inspectors experienced a calm and welcoming atmosphere within the service. Children were relaxed and appeared happy and settled in their surroundings. Staff provided support and encouragement, fostering children's independence and self-help skills. Staff reported that parents provide children's snacks and the service provides a hot meal for children attending on a fulltime basis. Drinking water was available and accessible to children for the duration of the inspection. Children were observed to use the toilet independently and staff provided immediate support when children asked for help. Nappies were changed regularly and when soiled. Self-feeding was encouraged and staff sat with children during mealtimes, providing support for any children requiring assistance. Bibs were provided for young children, and staff were observed to promote healthy hygiene practices for children. For example, children were encouraged to wash their hands after outdoor play, before and after meals, after nappy changing and using the toilet.

Warm positive relationships were evident between staff and children. The inspectors observed that the service takes a child centred approach to children's care and education, allowing children time and space to learn at their own pace. Staff spoke to children in calm gentle tones, using eye contact and dropping to their level in a respectful manner. Children's language development was supported through one to one and group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed during the inspection. Children were observed to be familiar with the routine, which was evident in the smooth transition from one activity to the next. Staff explained the service provides daily updates to parents on the activities children are participating in through an online software application. Informal communication was observed at drop off.

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Children who required sleep were placed to sleep in individual cots or beds when they displayed signs of tiredness. The lighting was dimmed in rooms where children slept and staff were observed to provide comfort and reassurance during sleep time.

The indoor environments were organised and laid out to allow children to lead their own learning. Materials and furnishings were child sized and accessible, encouraging curiosity, freedom of movement and choice. and included items such as, kitchens and props, construction materials, musical instruments, puzzles, books and small world materials.

The outdoor environments supported children's physical development and provided opportunity for safe risk and challenge.

A birthday wall, family photos and displays of children's artwork were observed in the care rooms supporting children's sense of identity and belonging.

Cosy areas with child size chairs were available for children should they wish to take a break from activities.

Children were observed to engage in outdoor play during the inspection and were appropriately dressed for the weather.

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 door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- Cleaning agents and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.

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- Individual bed linen was provided for children and was stored separately when not in use. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly or as required.
- All cot mattresses in use had waterproof covers.
- Handwashing was observed before meals, after using the toilet and following nappy changes and after outdoor play.
- A system to mouthed toys were removed from circulation was in place.

Administration of Medication:

- There was a documented care plan available for one child attending the service who required emergency medication. Staff working in the room with the child were aware of the treatment plan and demonstrated knowledge of the procedures to follow if the medication was required.
- Staff demonstrated, through discussion, that they were familiar with the procedures and practices in place for the administration of medication in line with the services policy on medication administration.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.
- An adult remained in the room at all times where children were sleeping on low beds.
- The sleep room temperatures were maintained within the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

- All fire exits were clear of obstruction.
- Regular fire drills took place in the service, staff stated that they occur monthly.