

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KE062
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Newbridge Family Resource Center
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Dara Park, Newbridge, Co. Kildare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	W12 PX65
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Brian McQuaid
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	27/01/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	31	PM	20
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Carty
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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

Newbridge Family Resource Centre is a not for profit sessional service located in an urban setting in Newbridge, Co Kildare. A service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service offers two separate sessional services and is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.00pm and 12.30pm to 3.30pm for 38 weeks of the year. The premises is located in an existing multi purpose family resource centre and has two care rooms, sanitary accommodation, an office and an outdoor area to the rear of the building.

### Staffing

There were six adults working in the service directly with the children. All staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications. The person in charge arrived subsequent to the inspectors arrival and did not work directly with the children.

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

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:

- Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment
- Regulation 11 – Staffing levels
- Regulation 15 – Information on a preschool child
- Regulation 16 -Information and records
- Regulation 19 – Health, welfare and development of the child.
- Regulation 23 - Safety
- Regulation – 25 First Aid
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 and 16 information and records.

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

*(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

(2)(a)(b)

Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of seven adults employed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for eight staff. However, 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 three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no adult had lived outside the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)  
Eight employed staff members working directly with pre-school children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

One reference for one adult was not available on file for inspection.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

Have marked date for vetting to be renewed. Regular checks on file to be done at end of each term.

### Supporting documentation submitted

One reference sent in for review.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documents were reviewed by the inspectorate and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 9.

## 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

### Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children at all times.

(3) The minimum adult to child ratios were maintained. There were seven adults caring for 25 preschool children

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

### Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 12 records were reviewed by the inspector.

The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a) to (i) of the above Regulation for all of the records reviewed.

### 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

- (h) A written record was available detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
- (i) A staffing roster was available in the service on the day of inspection.
- (k) A sample of 10 accident and incident records were reviewed and were signed by staff and parents and completed appropriately.

### 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

The inspector observed the children's learning, development and well-being being supported by the staff and the environment.

There were two large play rooms available to the children. There was low level shelving containing various activities that promoted the development of various interests including arts and crafts, home corner, book corner, small world play and a construction area. Low level tables and chairs were provided to meet the children's age. Children's artwork was displayed on the walls.

The children had access to three different fully enclosed outdoor play areas. There was a covered area with a tunnel, slide a large game and large bricks. A large fully enclosed outdoor area with a bark surface contained a mud kitchen and water wall. A second area with a climbing frame and slide which helped promote the

development of gross motor movement. The person in charge also showed the inspector a large indoor room which was in the process of being developed into a sensory room for the children. The children accessed the covered area on the day of inspection. Staff made themselves available to the children to scaffold and extend learning as well as be available should a child require support. Staff were observed to sit with children throughout the session and assist them with a variety of activities including games and puzzles. The children spent the morning engaging in activities together including building, sensory play and imaginative play games. An emergent curriculum was evident in the service. Children's interests were clearly incorporated into the activities and interest areas. Ongoing observations and assessments were documented which informed curriculum planning. Staff offered praise and encouragement to the children throughout the inspection. The adults demonstrated sensitivity and warmth towards the children by using soft tones and positive language when interacting with the children. Children were comforted in a timely manner and their feelings were acknowledged when situations arose. The inspector observed the children's learning, development and well-being being supported by the staff and the environment. The children spent some time outdoors where they had access to a space with equipment available to support full-body-movement and imaginative play. The children's independence and choice was supported whilst some children chose to play outside others chose to remain inside. The indoor environment further supported the children's development there were clearly defined interest areas such as home corner, construction area, art area and book corner, with soft mats and cushions. Materials and equipment were stored on low level shelves and had jigsaws, puzzles, peg boards, small world toys, vehicles, animals, wooden stacking blocks, dinosaurs and a train set.

Children's artwork was displayed on the walls and each child had their own books with photographs and pictures the children had made which evidenced what they had been doing during the year. The room has child sized tables and chairs for children to sit at for mealtimes and table top activities. The care room was bright with lots of natural light. Staff were observed to sit with children throughout the session and assist them with a variety of activities including games and puzzles.

Children were comforted in a timely manner and their feelings were acknowledged when situations arose. Staff made themselves available to the children to scaffold and extend learning as well as be available should a child require support. Children were supported to be independent with their personal care. Staff reminded them to wash their hands at appropriate times and to put on their coats before going outside. The children were observed to use the toilet independently when they needed. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision when required whilst also supporting the children's independence.

The parents or guardians of the children provided their snack which contained healthy snacks such as yoghurts, sandwiches and fruit.

The staff communicated with parents and guardians at drop off and collection times detailing information on the child's day and important information which needed to be communicated with the parents.

### 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:

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

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.

##### Fire Safety:

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

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for eight staff members. However, five vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

Have marked date for vetting to be renewed and regular checks on file to be done at end of each term.

## Supporting documentation submitted

### General Safety:

1. Attached updated Garda vetting for staff.

## Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documents were reviewed by the inspectorate and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23.

## 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) A person with current first aid training was available to the children throughout the inspection.

(2)

- (a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The first aid box was available for use 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 fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*

### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
  - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.