

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY004
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Anabla Preschool Play 'n' Learn
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Anabla, Kilcummin, Killarney, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V93 KN60
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ann Marie Barrett-Farmer
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional, Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	19/06/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	0
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Offices, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Riordan
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Anabla Play 'n' Learn is a private sessional and part time preschool service. It operates from a classroom which is located within Anabla National School in the rural area of Kilcummin in County Kerry. It offers a morning sessional service from 9.00 am until 12.00pm each Monday and Tuesday and a part time service up to 2.00pm each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The service is registered for children aged two years of age to six years of age. The service is registered to accommodate 22 preschool children.

### Staffing

The register provider is the owner and manager of the service. There are two additional staff working at service. Relief staff are available if required. All adults working at the service have the required childcare qualifications. There is a staff member on duty at all times who is qualified to administer first aid if needed.

### 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.

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 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 provider is the owner and the manager of the service. A named person to deputise is available if required.

(b) The designated person in charge or their deputy were rostered on duty each day.

(2)(a) There were 2 written and validated references from past employers available in respect of all adults working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, references from an alternative source such as previous schools and colleges were provided.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. 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 for 2 staff members who had resided outside of the state for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All staff working directly with the children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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) The registered provider ensured that at all times there was a sufficient number of qualified staff working directly with the children at the service. On the day of the inspection there were nine preschool children present with three adults.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratio was maintained to facilitate a part-time service for children who wished to avail of this facility three days each week.

### 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:
- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
  - (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;
  - (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;
  - (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;
  - (e) the facilities available;
  - (f) the opening hours and fees;
  - (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
  - (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

- (1) The registered provider displayed the following information about the service in writing for the parents to view.
- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and each staff working at the facility.
  - (b) Details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide service to.
  - € Details of the adult/child ratios in the service.
  - (d) The type of care or programme provided in the service.
  - €The facilities available.
  - (f) The opening hours and fees.
  - (g) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10. A summary of the polices were shared with parents at time of enrolment.
  - (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily was recorded.
  - (j) The service had a medication administration record template available that could be used in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered at the service.
  - (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service was recorded.

### 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 service adhered to a healthy eating policy, advising parents to provide nutritious snacks for their children each day. On the day of inspection, children's lunches included sandwiches, bread rolls, a variety of fruits, crackers, and cheese. All perishable foods were stored in a refrigerator until required each day at the service. Children's drinks were stored outside their bags and were accessible at all times, both inside and outdoors.

Indoors, children had unrestricted access to toilets situated adjacent to the pre-school room, equipped with hot water, liquid soap, and paper hand towels for handwashing. A nappy changing facility was also available if required. The close proximity of the sanitary accommodation to the preschool room ensured staff were available to supervise children at all times and to help if required.

Tissues and wipes were readily available to children, with all waste disposed of properly in foot pedal-operated, lidded bin.

A rest area, furnished with soft floor mats, cushions, and books, provided an attractive space for children to rest and relax if tired during the session.

With an extensive, well equipped outdoor space, children were observed moving freely from indoors to outside throughout the morning session.

### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

The service operated within a large, well-designed classroom, featuring a range of developmentally appropriate, well-resourced interest areas for the children, such as a construction area, home corner/imagination play area, and a rest and relaxation reading area. All play materials and equipment were visibly organised and easily accessible to the children on open low-level shelving. A sensory tray filled with sand offered opportunities for sensory development and messy play. Low-level tables and chairs were used for various tabletop activities.

Educational posters with colourful charts displayed information at children's eye level on the walls.

Adjacent to the pre-school room was a large well-resourced outdoor play area. The area was secured with fully enclosed fencing surrounding the space. Synthetic grass covered the area making it accessible in all weather conditions. Here children had access to planting and gardening opportunities.

The recently extended outdoor play area provided space for more active play opportunities. Opportunities for gardening and planting activities took place, with numerous plants and flowers growing in raised beds. Natural materials such a large timber spools and rubber tyres were used as play equipment. The adjacent school playground and field were also accessible for balls sports and for use of ride on toys and equipment.

### 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 facility had secure entry with a bell system at the front gate leading to the classroom. Internal doors were locked to keep children from unsafe areas. Emergency exits and fire doors remained clear. Toys and play equipment were safe, well-maintained, and free from hazards. Cleaning agents were stored out of children's reach on high shelves. The outdoor play area was enclosed with secure railings and children were supervised at all times when playing outdoors.

##### Infection Control:

Infection control measures were implemented. Children had access to hot water, liquid soap, and paper towels to ensure effective handwashing. Regular cleaning ensured all areas were maintained throughout the day. Records of children's immunisations were maintained ensuring proper procedures were followed if there were an outbreak of an infectious illness.

### 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.*
- (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) Fire drills took place on a monthly basis. The most recent fire drill took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.
- (b) All fire extinguishers and smoke alarms were serviced on an annual basis. The most recent check was carried in April 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the main pre-school room in the premises.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

### Compliance Information

(a) The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure both internally and externally and no obvious defects were noted on inspection.

(b) The premises appeared safe and secured. The outdoor area was well secured with the boundary area surrounded with timber railing, thus preventing any unauthorised access to or exit from this area of the service.

(c) All areas were well lit by natural light and by artificial light when needed. There was no evidence of mould, mildew, stale smells, stuffiness or condensation.

(d) All areas of the service were well maintained, and routine cleaning schedules were in place for all internal and external areas.

(e) There were an adequate number of toilets available in the service for both the number of children and adults at the service.