

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY011
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Name of Service:	Beginners World
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Address of Service:	Dromin, Listowel, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V31 YE13
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Name of Registered Provider:	Bridget O'Carroll
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	12/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	09
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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

Beginners World is registered as a privately operated early years service, catering for children aged between 2 years and 6 years on a sessional basis. The children attending on inspection were aged between 3 years and 5 years. The service offers two sessions between the hours of 8.45 am and 11.45 am and the second session 12.15 pm and 3.15 pm Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a purpose-built building in Dromin, Listowel, Co. Kerry. The building has 1 spacious playroom with sanitary accommodation, nappy changing facilities and an outdoor play area located at the side of the building directly accessible from the playroom.

Staffing

There are 5 adults attached to the service employed to work directly with the children each day. This includes the registered provider. There was 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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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

(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.*

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(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) There was a designated person in charge in the service and a named person who was able to deputise if needed.

(b) The named deputy was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that 3 new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. A total of 3 files were reviewed

(a) Six of the required references were available from a past employer and were validated.

(b) Not applicable, the six references required were from a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the 3 new staff members. 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 required and had been obtained for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Evidence of completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications was on file for the 3 new staff members.

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

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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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.

(3) There were 3 adults caring for 19 children aged between 3 years to 5 years attending the morning session and 3 adults caring for 9 children aged between 3 years to 4 years in the afternoon session. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

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)

Basic Needs

- The children were playing in the outdoor play area on the inspector's arrival to the service.
- As evidenced on inspection, a flexible and a responsive environment was provided in the service that was reactive to the emerging changing needs, preferences and interests. The children were observed to play in the playroom and in the outdoor area for example, colouring slugs in line with the curriculum theme of the week "Bug week", painting a large spider web, and playing with the dolls and prams.

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- There was a rest area provided in the corner of the playroom to facilitate children to rest/ relax and opt out of an activity as they so wished during the session. The area was furnished soft seating and cushions.
- The staff facilitated the children to partake in a short rest period prior to having the morning snack. Sitting at their tables of choice, each child made a “pretend pillow” with their hands on the tables while soft relaxing music played in the background.
- The atmosphere during the snack time was relaxed and unhurried, with pleasant social interaction between the children and staff.
- The parents/guardians provide the food for the children. The food observed on inspection included sandwiches, crackers, yogurts, and fruit.
- The inspector observed the staff encouraging self-help skills for example getting their lunch bags and putting them away, recycling food packing and putting on their coats when going to play outside.
- The children accessed the toilets located outside the playroom as they needed to during the session with the staff nearby to assist them as needed.
- In conversation with the staff, the individual toileting needs of children are met working in consultation with the parents, for example for children who are not yet independently using the toilet.
- The staff were observed to be caring and kind towards the children in their care. They re-assured and comforted children as needed.

Physical and Material Environment

- The playroom was spacious and bright. The walls were decorated with a selection of children’s artwork, educational materials and the children’s family photographs.
- The playroom was resourced with a range of equipment and materials displayed on low level open shelving units that were within easy reach for the children to independently help themselves during the sessions.
- The walls in the entrance area were decorated with a selection of photographs demonstrating children partaking in a variety of play activities in the centre together with a description on each.
- In conversation with staff and as observed during the inspection, children’s individual needs were provided for, such as matting for the outdoor play area and individualized play items.
- The outdoor play area offered a range of play experiences for the children that included for example, a playhouse, at the rear of the service had a variety of play materials and toys available and accessible to them, sand play, a playhouse, a toy kitchen, chalk boards and ride on toys.

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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 external door was secured to prevent unauthorised persons enter the premise and to prevent children exiting unsupervised.
- There was a secure child gate in place on the pre-school door leading from the entrance reception area. The inspector observed children were supervised by an adult when they entered this area to get their bags for the morning snack.
- The cleaning products seen on inspection were stored out of the reach of the children as observed in the playroom and in the adult/nappy changing room.
- The outdoor area was secured with fencing and gates. In conversation with the staff, the inspector was informed that new fencing was installed in the area in March 2026.

Infection Control:

- There was a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towels to promote effective handwashing by the children to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There was emergency medication on the premise for a child attending that had an expiry date of 02/2026, posing a risk of illness to the child should the medication be required for use in the event of an emergency. Following the inspection the registered provider evidenced that in-date medication was available in the service and will be kept in the service.

Infection Control:

2. The pedal operating device on two pedal bins in the playroom observed in use by the adults and the children were broken, posing a risk of cross infection to children when the lids were used to open the bins for each use.

Administration of Medication:

3. There was no care plan on file in respect of emergency medication administration for a child attending the service posing a risk of illness to the child in the event the emergency medication was required.

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Following the inspection the registered provider evidenced a care plan that was in place in the service.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The in-date medication is now kept on the premise in a labelled box near the care plan. The parents understand that the medication must be available on the premise at all times. A note of the expiry dated of the medication will be maintained and the service will ensure that replacement medications will be provided well in advance of the expiry due dates.

Infection Control:

2. On the day of the inspection two new pedal bins were purchased and put in place in the playroom. The manager will check the bins each day to ensure they are functioning as required.

Administration of Medication:

3. The required care plan is now displayed on the wall next to the medication box for the child. The service will ensure that any child that requires medications will have a care plan displayed that is easily accessible to the staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- 1.. Photographs of the medication referred to in place in the service.

Infection Control:

2. A photograph of the new bins in place in the service.

Administration of Medication:

- 3.The care plan for the child in question was received.

Summary Comment

All documentation received was examined. The requirement for the regulation has been met.

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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 were certifications on file demonstrating that 4 staff members attached to the service had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training completed and 1 staff member had up to date Paediatric First Aid completed.

(2)

(a) The sufficiently equipped first aid box was wall mounted in the playroom, out of the reach of children.

(b) At all times when the service is in operation, the first aid box was accessible to the adults in the event that children required them.

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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) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -
- (a) A template to record each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 21/04/2026 for the morning and afternoon sessions.
 - (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check for the smoke alarm was 10.03.2026 and for the firefighting equipment was 12/05/2026.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the playroom.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was furnished to the inspector.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured
- the category (sessional) of insurance cover for the service.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'27.