

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015LD020

Name of Service: Bright Beginnings

Address of Service: 23 Sycamore Close, Clonbalt Woods, Longford, Co. Longford

Eircode: N39 V205

Name of Registered Provider: Yvonne Kiernan

Service type: Full Day, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 19/11/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	20
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.

Inspection undertaken by: T. Duignan and S. Murray.

Title: Early Years Inspector and Inspection and Registration Manager.

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.

Description of service

This pre-school service is in a detached premises, in an urban area on the outskirts of Longford town. The service operates a full day care service from 7.30am to 18:00hrs. The service caters for children aged between 0 to 6 years. The service is registered for a maximum number of 45 pre-school children, at any one time. There are five playrooms, a designated sleep room and a kitchen. The outdoor play area is located at the rear of the premises. The service is registered for school age care. A separate prefabricated building is provided for the school age service. On-site parking and set down facilities are available.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service daily. Seven staff including the registered provider work in the service. On the day of the inspection, five staff members were present. The registered provider arrived after the inspection commenced and remained for the duration of the inspection. Of the six adults present five were working directly with the preschool children. The registered provider provided support to the care rooms also. Five of the seven staff employed hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under.

- Regulation 9 (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (2) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 15(1), (f) - Record of pre-school child
- Regulation 16 (1), (j) – Record in relation to pre-school service
- Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 27 – Supervision.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included all the care 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 registered provider, 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

(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

(4) Five adults were employed to work directly with children attending the service and held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher or a recognised equivalent qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(4) Two adults employed to work directly with children attending the service did not have a qualification certificate on file that demonstrated a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher or a recognised equivalent qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications was held.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(4)
One adult on long term leave from service.
Second adult will not be working directly with preschool children until the major award Early Childhood Care and Education is obtained.

Supporting documentation submitted

Staff roster 1-5 December 2025

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is not met as the qualification remains outstanding.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were not available to meet the needs of the children attending. There was no adult available to provide relief cover to the care rooms from 9:40am until the registered provider arrived in the service at 10:36 am.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was not adhered to at all times during the day as evidenced by the following observations:
- At 9:42 am, the adult in the Toddler room was caring for 6 children aged 3-6 years, 1 child aged 1-2 years and 2 children aged 2-3 years because the staff member from ECCE 1 room left the room to answer the door. Two staff members were required to maintain the correct adult/child ratio for this age range of children.
 - At 10:22 am, the adult in the Toddler room was caring for 6 children aged 3-6 years, 1 child aged 1-2 years and 2 children aged 2-3 years because the staff member from ECCE 1 room left the room to answer the door. Two staff members were required to maintain the correct adult/child ratio for this age range of children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) A staff member will be assigned to changing nappies, so that the room leader does not have to leave the room.
- (2) Ensure that the door is only answered when there is a free member of staff available to answer the door.
- Make the service an appointment only, inform parents that they have to ring in advance should they wish to collect their child early. Put the service phone number on the front door so anyone that wants to view /request information can make contact by phone and if the registered provider or another member is available then we will answer the door.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Staff rotas.
- (2) Photograph of contact details on front door.

Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted has been assessed by the Early Years Service. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 11. This area of practice will be assessed at the next inspection.

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:

(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;

Compliance Information

(1)(f)

A care plan with all the information relevant to the provision of special care and attention was available for a child attending the service.

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:

(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)
- (j) The details of medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service was maintained.
- (k) The details of any accidents, injury or incidents involving a pre-school child attending the service was maintained

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(i) There was no staff roster available in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(i) Created a revised staff rota to include staff members full name, the rooms that they are working in and the rooms that the staff are covering.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(i) Staff rotas 1-5th December 2025.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Service. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 16(1)(i).

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The tables and chairs used by the children in ECCE 1 rooms were adequate and suitable.

Non-Compliance Information

- The protective seat covering placed on the moulded plastic low and high feeding chairs for comfort was missing. The children attending the Toddler room were observed sitting in the low feeding chairs for tabletop activities as well as at mealtimes.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- Soft covers for chairs have been ordered and are now in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Invoice and photograph of covered chairs.

Summary Comment

The written response, documentary and photographic evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Service. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 21.

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 secured to allow staff to control entry to and exit from the areas. The outdoor area was enclosed and secured to allow staff control access to the outdoor area and prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The daily indoor room environmental risk assessments provided to the inspector requires to be reviewed as the documents used were unlabelled and it was unclear whether it was a risk assessment, environmental cleaning record or a combination of both.
2. Two bottles of alcohol-based hand sanitiser were placed on the tables in the ECCE 1 room and were accessible to the preschool children.
3. The cupboard under sink in toddler room was not secured. It was observed that items such as a cleaning spray, air freshener and a roll of plastic bags were accessible to a child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A revised daily indoor room environmental risk assessments have been completed by staff members daily.
2. The hand sanitisers have been removed and will not be left on tables accessible to children.
3. A safety lock has been put on the press to secure it. Ensure all presses with cleaning materials in classrooms have safety locks.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Daily completed risk assessments for indoors and outdoors.
2. Photograph.
3. Photograph.

Summary Comment

The written response, documentary and photographic evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Service. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The children attending the preschool room were supervised by the two staff members indoors and during outdoor play.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure that the pre-school children were supervised as evidenced by the following observations.

1. At 9:41 am, the staff member in Toddler room was observed to be supervising six children aged 3-4 years in ECCE 1 room, one child aged 1-2 years and two children aged 2-3 years in the Toddler room as the staff member in ECCE 1 room answered the front door. At 10:22 am, the staff member in Toddler room was observed to be supervising six children aged 3-4 years in ECCE 1 room, one child aged 1-2 years and two children aged 2-3 years in the Toddler room as the staff member in ECCE 1 room answered the front door. This posed a risk to the safety of the children as the staff member from the Toddler room had to cover both rooms which were separated by double doors.
2. At 10:50 am, a staff member from the Wobbler room brought the four children in her care to the lobby area of the service to sit on seats located outside of the nappy changing room. The staff member proceeded to change each child's nappy in turn but could not adequately supervise the children in her care. The children were constantly reminded to sit down but they were observed running, crawling on the floor and kneeling on the seats provided. A child was observed to gain access to inhaled medication and sunscreen that was present in an open bag positioned on shelving that was accessible to the children. The inspector intervened, closed the bag and placed it out of reach of the child. There was a risk to the safety of the children as the staff member carrying out the nappy changes was unable to give the children her full attention and adequately intervene during issues observed as described above.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

An extra staff member has been employed in the service. Have enough staff at all times and use a local childcare agency for relief staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of staff member employed and also adults employed temporarily from childcare agency.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Service. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 27. This area of practice will be assessed at the next inspection.