

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LH063		
Name of Service:	Moneymore Childcare Centre		
Address of Service:	Roaches Lane, Drogheda, Co. Louth		
Eircode:	A92 D267		
Name of Registered Provider:	Martina Kearney		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	25/02/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	67	PM 46
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive Swords Co Dublin		
Inspection undertaken by:	M. McDonnell and S. McKenna		
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		

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Moneymore Childcare Centre is based in a ground floor building in a residential area in Co. Louth. The service is registered to provide full day, part time and sessional care from 8.00am to 6.00pm. The service provides Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). The children have access to five care rooms, Baby Room 1, Baby room 2, Toddler room ECCE 1 and ECCE 2. Each room has access to their own sanitary facilities, which includes nappy changing for the two baby rooms and the Toddler room. The two baby rooms also have adjoining cots rooms. There is a separate dining room for the babies and Toddlers to use which is adjacent to the Kitchen. There is an outdoor area at the rear of the premises and a one directly accessible from Baby room 1. A large hallway space can provide indoor play in poor weather and there is a sensory room available.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. The registered provider employs 26 staff members. This includes a person in charge who works in a supernumerary capacity and 22 staff members who work directly with the children. There is an office manager who can also work directly with the children. A cook and maintenance person are also employed in the service. A student was completing a work experience placement.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 Management & Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels, Regulation 15 Records in Relation to a pre-school child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of a child, Regulation 25 First aid Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures and Regulation 27 Supervision, However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29 Premises. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

(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 of the service, and a there was a named person to deputise in their absence.
- (b) Following discussion with the person in charge, and review of the staff roster it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation the designated person in charge or the named person in charge were on the premises.
- (c) On discussion with staff members, there was a clearly defined person and deputy person in charge to ensure lines of accountability.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(2) On the day of inspection, the recruitment files of the registered provider, 26 staff members and student were reviewed.

(a)(b) There were 56 written and validated references available for the registered provider, 26 staff members and the student.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available for all staff members, and the registered provider and student. However, the service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years following a review of staff members previous employment in the service. This is examined in Regulation 23.

(d) Documentation available demonstrated that police vetting was not required for 23 staff members, the student or the registered provider. International police vetting required for 3 staff members was available alongside the certified translation where relevant.

(4) The 22 staff members employed to work directly with the pre-school children, the person in charge and the office manager held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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.

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

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(2) On the inspector's unannounced arrival, the adult child ratio was observed to be correct and remained so throughout the inspection. The following adult-to-child ratios were observed:

- In Baby room 1 there were 3 staff members and 10 children, aged between 1 year 2 months and 1 year 11 months old, attending on part time or full day care basis.
- In Baby Room 2 room there were 2 staff members and 5 children, aged between 1 years 1 month and 1 years 7 months old, attending on part time or full day care basis.
- In the Toddler room there were 5 staff members and 15 children aged between 2 years old to 2 years 11 months old attending on part time or full day care basis.
- In ECCE 1 there were 4 staff members and 20 children, aged between 3 years and 1 months to 4 years 1 month old, attending the morning session. Following the sessional hours the ratio reverted to 3 staff members and 11 children attending on part time or full day care basis.
- In ECCE 2 there were 4 staff members and 17 children, aged between 4 years 2 months to 5 years 1 month old, attending the morning session. Following the sessional hours the ratio reverted to 1 staff member and 7 children attending on part time or full day care basis.

(8) A review of the staff roster and sign in sheets demonstrated that two adults were present on the premises at all times.

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;*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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.

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

(a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,

(b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and

(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service. A total sample of 24 child record forms were reviewed, to include children in attendance across all care rooms, and included the required information as detailed at (1) (a) to (i) above.

(3) The records, as detailed above, were available to review on site in a secure location in the service.

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 service had a secure entrance to the service with a buzzer system in place. This prevented any unauthorised access to the service and exit from the service by children.
- The outdoor areas were secured with high level fencing and walls and secure gates.
- Blind cords were secured.
- The highchairs available in the dining room were in good condition and fitted with appropriate harnesses
- Play materials and equipment were presented in good condition.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of children's reach and the sluice room was secured.
- Floors and ground surfacing throughout the building and in the large outdoor area were presented in good condition, with no trip hazards observed.

Infection Control:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Children's soothers were stored in individually stored containers and staff were aware of cleaning procedures.
- There was a mouthed toy box in the care rooms. Staff members were aware of the need to remove toys from play and effective cleaning procedures to reduce cross contamination.
- Children's hands were washed following indoor and outdoor play and prior to eating lunch and snacks.
- Nappy changing procedures were observed to follow the service's nappy changing policy and included the use of gloves and the handwashing of children and staff.
- Individual bedding was available for each child and staff discussed the cleaning procedure used for the shared cots.

Safe Sleep:

- Children under 2 years old were provided with a cot for sleep.
- Staff members recorded the 10-minute sleep checks for all sleeping children and were aware of monitoring a child's breathing, position and colour during sleep.
- A thermometer was available in the baby care room and cot room to monitor the temperature whilst children slept. Staff were aware of procedures required should the temperature exceed 22°C whilst children slept.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The registered provider had a Garda Vetting disclosure available for all staff members and the student. However, one of these disclosures did not meet compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Administration of Medication:

2. A display available outlined that preschool children were recorded as having allergies or a specific dietary condition. The staff verbally outlined to the inspectors the children's allergy/condition. However, no care plans were completed and signed by the children's parents to include signs, symptoms and procedures for what staff should do in the case of a reaction and or emergency.

Safe Sleep:

3. Safe sleep practices were not always implemented in in-line with Tusla's safe sleep guidelines;
4. A staff member did not remain in the sleep room adjoining the Toddler room when children were sleeping on stackable/floor beds. This posed a risk that children who were awake could leave their beds

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

unsupervised and climb, trip, fall, disrupt the sleep of or cause harm to another child. In line with Tusla's safe sleep guidance, children sleeping on stackable beds require direct supervision at all times.

5. On one occasion a staff member in the Toddler room was observed to look through the viewing panel from the care room to the sleep room and proceed to complete written sleep checks. On another occasion the staff member opened the door to the sleep room, stood at the door entrance and closed the door and proceed to complete written sleep checks on the sleeping children. Sleep checks must be carried out on sleeping children every 10-minute intervals by directly observing the sleeping children. A viewing panel or view from a distance does not provide assurances that the sleeping children have been directly observed in line with safe sleep practises.
6. The staff in ECCE room 1 advised the inspector that they recorded the time the children went to sleep and woke up at on their services digital application. They said they visually check the sleeping children on a regular interval but do not maintain records of the checks. Sleep checks at 10-minute intervals of children's breathing pattern, skin colour and sleeping position are required in line with safe sleep practises for sleeping children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The updated Garda vetting disclosure was submitted and as a preventive action the registered provider has manually recorded expiry dates, these have been added to a digital calendar which will send a reminder two months prior to renewal date.

Administration of Medication:

2. The registered provider stated that there are robust plans in place for children with severe allergies or medical conditions where medication is needed to prevent any serious health risks, however, this was not done for children who have allergies or illnesses requiring no medication. A review of all records has been carried out and after discussions with parents a plan is in place for all children should they be exposed to any allergens. This includes signs and symptoms, what to do in the case of exposure. These have been signed by parents and discussed with staff. A new template is in place, and any issues will be discussed with parents and plans drawn up at enrolment stage, these plans will be reviewed at various stages ie. transitions, new terms or should the condition change.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Safe Sleep:

3. A staff member will remain with children while sleeping on stackable beds to ensure children are correctly supervised to avoid children leaving their beds. A review of the policy has taken place, and this has been communicated to all staff.
4. & 5. While all staff are aware of our sleep safe policy, they acknowledged on the day of inspection the correct procedure was not followed. A review of the policy has taken place to include the changes highlighted above and all staff have been made aware of the correct procedure to follow and its importance. Staff in the toddler room now remain in the sleep area for nap times, checks will be carried out and documented by this staff member. Spot checks from manager and senior staff will be carried out at sleep times to ensure staff remain vigilant with this procedure.
6. As children are offered rest in the ECCE room where they are in full view of staff, this document was not completed. The process of recording checks every 10 mins is now in place. All staff were updated of changes during a recent policy review.

Supporting documentation submitted

Garda vetting disclosure

Care plan

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances identified and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(2)(a) (b) The first aid equipment was conspicuous and easily accessible to staff members. The first aid equipment available provided adequate resources in the event of a first aid emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider had not ensured that a person trained in a First Aid Responder (FAR) course was available at all times when the children were in attendance. There were two staff members with current FAR certification. However, on the day of inspection neither of these staff members were on site between 8.00 and 9.00am. It is acknowledged that when this was discussed with the person in charge, whose FAR certification had expired, they were on site from 7.30am. The roster was amended and the two staff members were rostered on to cover the hours of the children's attendance from the following day.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- Two staff members attended and received FAR certification in March 2026 and two completed training in April 2026. This now means the rotas have reverted back to pre-inspection times with two staff trained arriving at 8am and two trained staff on duty until close at 6pm.

Supporting documentation submitted

FAR confirmation

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances identified and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) A record of the most recent fire drill on 12 February 2026, was available for review. The service had maintained a record of monthly fire drills.
- (b) The maintenance records for the fire extinguishers demonstrated they were last serviced on 17 February 2026, and the fire alarm was serviced in April 2025.
- (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the rooms and hallway.

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 inspectors observed consistent supervision of all children throughout the inspection. In all rooms children were provided with the opportunity for free play activities. This included sensory play, climbing on the soft play activity equipment, low level stored play equipment and looking at books. The staff members engaged with the children's play at this time and allowed children to play independently. It was evident from observations that staff members were aware of the children's play if not being directly supervised. For example, in Baby room 1 a staff member was helping a child with painting, and another was sat reading books with the children. However, staff members responded immediately when children, who were playing independently, became upset over a toy.

Children from the two Baby rooms were directly supervised from their rooms to the communal dining area, and the children were observed to enjoy this walk. In the Baby rooms one child at a time was taken to have their nappy changed which supported effective supervision.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

There was an outdoor area directly accessible from Baby room 1 and a large shared outdoor area at the rear of the service. The large area contained climbing activities alongside scooters, bikes and outdoor kitchens. Staff positioned themselves throughout the area to provide support and supervision to the children during outdoor play.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
- The child sized sofas in the Toddler room had torn edges on each piece of the sofa.
 - The water pressure from the taps in the ECCE room 2 preschool sanitary area was insufficient. One tap was a slow trickle and warm water was not available, the second tap pressure was too high and splashed around the sink and floor when turned to warm. It is acknowledged that the children used an alternative sink for handwashing on the day of inspection (low level sink in the ECCE 2 care room).
- (e) The water in Baby Room 2 handwash basin was not thermostatically controlled to a maximum 43°C. At 12.07pm the water in this sink was 46°C. It is acknowledged that this is a mixer tap and children cannot independently access the tap.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d) The registered provider stated as discussed on inspection the service was in the process of purchasing new seating and had been awaiting samples, the new seating has been purchased for all rooms. The leather chairs have been replaced with removable fabric sofas which can be unzipped and washed. This has been added to the cleaning schedule.
- The pressure in the taps has been adjusted, and warm water is now available at all three sinks.
- Maintenance checks will be carried out in all rooms to ensure amenities are well maintained and in working order. Staff were reminded to report any issues immediately.
- (e) A thermostat has been fitted to the baby room 2 sink and staff will monitor and report any issues.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of new sinks, repaired taps and plumbing receipt.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection.