

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK018
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Name of Service:	Banogue Community Creche
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Address of Service:	Banogue Croom Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V35 PW27
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Name of Registered Provider:	Michael Curtin
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	44	PM	43
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

This community not for profit registered service was established in 2008. It operates a full day care service from 07:30 – 18:00 hours Monday – Friday from a purpose-built facility in a rural setting. Curriculum for each age group are play based. Children are accommodated in five different rooms according to their age group i.e., baby room, wobbler room, toddler room, junior pre-school room and senior pre-school room. The children have access to sanitary accommodation areas and two sleep rooms. Outdoor play facilities are available directly off each playroom. School aged children are accommodated in a separate building adjacent to the creche and also in the school premises directly across the road from the creche.

Staffing

There are 30 adults on the staff roster and employed in the service.

This is inclusive of the following.

- 21 staff with childcare qualifications work directly with the children which includes the person in charge.
- 9 additional staff which includes kitchen staff, administrative staff and school aged staff.

All staff working directly with the children have childcare qualifications that range from QQI Level 5 - QQI Level 8 on the national qualification's framework document. Staff have engaged in on going professional development including first aid training.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations.

Regulation 9(1)(a)(b) 2(a)(b)(c)(d) (4)

Regulation 11(2)

Regulation 19(1a)

Regulation 23

Regulation 29(d)(e)

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.*

(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 and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge or the deputy person in charge was available on the premises as outlined in the staff roster.

(2) Records for six new staff appointed since the last inspection of the service on 10/11/2025 were reviewed on the day of the inspection.

(a) Nine written and validated references from the person's past employers and in particular the most recent employer were available.

(b) Three written and validated references from sources other than past employers were available.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available in respect of all staff including the six newly appointed staff. The service adhered to the

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required for any of the newly appointed staff as no member had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All staff working directly with children had childcare qualifications.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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

(2) On 19/03/2026 there were 18 staff working across 5 rooms with 44 children present in the morning and 43 children present in the afternoon. The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained and an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children in each room.

Baby Room – There was 2 children (0-1 years) and 2 staff present.

Wobbler Room - There were 8 children (1- 2 years) and 4 staff present.

Toddler Room - There were 10 children (2-3) and 4 staff present.

Junior Preschool Room - There were 11 children (3-4 years) and 4 staff present.

Senior Preschool Room - There were 13 children (4 years plus) and 4 staff present.

Additional staff were available to cover for staff breaks /office management.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

A healthy eating policy was available in the service. Each child had their own drinking bottle for water labelled and placed on a shelf accessible to the children. Chicken nuggets, pasta, vegetables, gravy and grated cheese were served for dinner, and children were offered second helpings.

Toilet training was based on the child's stage of development and their readiness to start training rather than their age. Children under 2 years of age slept in cots when staff observed the signs that they were becoming tired. Children over 2 years of age slept on sleep beds in a room adjacent to the toddler room whilst the staff remained in the room to ensure the children's safety.

Depending on each child's age they were supported to manage their own personal care. e.g. pictures, word reminders and instructions were displayed to support and encourage hand washing by both children and staff.

Comfortable inviting rest areas were evident in each room where children were observed to move to when they needed some quiet time away from the main play activities.

Staff were observed interacting well with the children, using soft tones of voice, using the child's name and getting down to their level and making eye contact. The key person system was evident in the service where lists demonstrated which staff member worked with a particular group of children. This supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with staff. Staff were observed to be actively involved in children's play in each of the rooms of the service where they initiated play and joined in the games when invited by the children. Children were observed to play outdoors in the afternoon and were appropriately clothed for the weather conditions at the time.

The younger children from the baby and toddler rooms were taken for walks in double buggies off the premises whilst maintaining the adult /child ratio. Staff in the baby and toddler rooms were observed to lift, cuddle and comfort children as required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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:

- External and internal doors were secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas.
- Emergency fire doors were unobstructed.
- Cleaning agents and toxic substances were stored safely and inaccessible to the children.
- All waste both indoors and outdoors was inaccessible to the children.
- All outdoor play areas were fenced and secured therefore children could not leave the premises.

Infection Control:

- Hygienic nappy changing procedures were evident and hand washing was observed by staff and children.

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.

Compliance Information

- (d)
- The outdoor play areas were clean and pools of stagnant water had been removed.
 - Toys and play equipment had been cleaned and broken toys were removed.
- (e) Additional sanitary facilities will be provided in the new building which is due to be constructed this summer.