

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK026
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Name of Service:	Bruff Community Pre School
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Address of Service:	Bandroom, Bruff, Co Limerick
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Eircode:	V35 V821
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Name of Registered Provider:	Jennifer Kiely
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	11/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	11
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan
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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Description of service

Bruff Community Pre School is a sessional pre-school service, operating from a community centre in the village of Bruff in Co. Limerick. The service offers a morning sessional service from 9.00am to 12.00pm and an afternoon sessional service from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. The service can cater for a maximum of 22 children at any one time between the age range of 2 to 6 years.

The facility comprises a large well-resourced pre-school room with a kitchenette, a storeroom, and sanitary facilities adjacent.

The children have access each day to the playground of the local primary school for outdoor play activities.

Staffing

The registered provider of the service is the chairperson of the pre-school management committee and does not work in the service. A designated person in charge and three staff are employed to work at the service. All staff working at the service hold a major award 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/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. On the day of the inspection the following regulations were assessed Regulation 9,11,19, 23 and 29.

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 can 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 designated person in charge was present on the day of the inspection. There was a second person available to deputise if needed.

(b) The staff roster indicated that the designated person in charge or their deputy was always available on the premises.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each adult working at the service.

(b) All references were from each past employers or from reputable sources such as schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all adults working at the service. 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 not required for any adult working at the service.

(4) All adults working at the service had 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.

(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 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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that the correct number of adults were rostered to work at the service each day. Evidence of this was noted in the staff and children sign in books.

(3) On the day of the inspection, there were 3 adults present with 16 pre-school children for the morning session. There were 3 adults present with 11 pre-school children for the afternoon session. The adult/child ratio was correct on both occasions.

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 service aimed to support each child's learning, development, and well-being by implementing suitable programs and care practices tailored to individual interests and needs. A healthy eating policy was in place, with

parents providing nutritious snacks and drinks for pre-school children. Perishable foods were refrigerated as needed, and staff encouraged social interaction during mealtime.

Children had easy access to nearby toilets equipped with hot water, liquid soap, and paper towels for proper hand hygiene. Foot pedal bins ensured safe disposal of tissues and hand towels, with staff available to assist when necessary. Spare clothes and protective gear for messy activities were provided. Children also enjoyed daily outdoor playtime in the adjacent school playground.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The playroom was a spacious, well-lit room with multiple interest areas accessible to the children, including a construction play area with blocks, bricks, and magnetic materials, a home corner with kitchen and real-life food items; an imagination play area with dress-up clothes; a quiet reading corner with soft furnishings next to a low-level book stand, and a planting area where children had planted flowers in small pots. Child-sized tables and chairs were available for tabletop activities. Toys and play equipment throughout the room were visible in clearly labelled, easily accessible storage boxes. Posters were displayed to provide information on letters, literacy, numbers, farm animals, sea creatures, and healthy eating.

Materials and equipment were changed and rotated as needed based on the children's emergent interests, curriculum plans, preferences, and ability levels. The outdoor facilities at the Primary school next door were available to the children each day for physical exercise and play. Children were always supervised when playing outside, with risk assessments conducted in all outdoor spaces before they went outside.

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:

To ensure the safety of the children attending the service, there was evidence of a risk management policy being implemented. Staff were familiar with the requirements and had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the risk management policy. Daily inspection of play areas, both indoors and outside took place. Safe pedestrian walkways were clearly identified. Equipment, materials and furnishings in the service

appeared safe and were located in areas to prevent collisions and injuries to children. All cleaning agents and hazardous equipment were stored in an area that was inaccessible to children.

Fire Safety:

Regular fire drills took place at the service which included a complete evacuation of the service to a prearranged designated assembly point. All firefighting equipment was serviced on a regular basis and all fire alarm and smoke alarms were checked each year by a competent person with appropriate training. Fire doors and fire exits were clear and unobstructed, clearly identified, and easily opened from the inside.

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 front door was locked, and all who entered the building were checked in by a member of staff. The outdoor area was well secured, preventing any unauthorised access to, or exit from this area of the service. Safety checks of all areas were carried out on a daily basis.

(c) All areas were well lit by natural light. There was no evidence of mould, mildew, stale smells, stuffiness or condensation in any area of the service.

(d) The areas outside were all well maintained, and routine cleaning schedules were in place for all internal and external areas.

(e) The facility was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities, all located within close proximity of the preschool room.