

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH134		
Name of Service:	Millview Childcare		
Address of Service:	Unit 5 Millview, Fairyhouse Road, Ratoath, Co. Meath		
Eircode:	A85 W642		
Name of Registered Provider:	Frank Reynolds, Mary Reynolds		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	15/10/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	37	PM 29
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin K67 Y5C6		
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Coyle & Y Kelly		
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.		

Description of service

Millview Childcare is a privately-owned childcare service located in Ratoath Co Meath accommodating pre-school children aged 0-6 years on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 60 pre-school children from 8am to 6pm each weekday, with eligible pre-school children facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.30am to 12.30pm for 38 weeks each year. There are 4 care rooms in the service namely the Little Rascals room, the Little Climbers room, the Little Explorers room and the Little Adventurers room, an outdoor play area is located to the side of the service. A registered school-age service in operation on the premises.

Staffing

There are 11 staff currently employed in the service including the services operations manager. Ten staff members work directly with the children on a daily basis including the service manager who provided support throughout the service as required. A chef is employed in the service. The registered providers were not present in the service during the inspection and are not based in the service

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,15,19,23,25 and 26; These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child.

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.

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) The service had a designated person in charge, who is the service manager and named persons to deputise in their absence.

(b) The service manager was the designated person in charge when the inspectors arrived unannounced on the day of inspection and remained present on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c) A management structure is in place, which was clearly identifiable through review of the staff roster, a staff display board and through discussion with the staff team.

The files for the service manager and 10 staff members, 9 of whom work directly with the children were reviewed.

(2)(a) &(b) Two written references were available for the service manager and 2 validated written references were available for the service manager and 10 staff members whose files were reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the service manager and 10 staff members. The Garda vetting records reviewed demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for 7 staff members who had resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as adults.

(4) The service manager and 9 core staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) 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.

(2) On the inspectors' 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 the Little Rascals room there were 2 staff members with 6 children aged between 1 year 1 month to 1 year 11 months old.
- In the Little Climbers room there were 2 staff members with 7 children aged between 1 year 10 months to 2 years 6 months old.
- In the Little Explorers room there were 2 staff members with 13 children aged between 3 years 9 months to 4 years 6 months old.
- In the Little Adventurers room there were 2 staff members with 11 children aged between 2 years 9 months to 3 years 8 months old.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, verified by staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained at the service.

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;*
- (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-

- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sampling process was used in relation to the children's records. All 15 sampled registration forms were appropriately completed with the required information as specified in sub-sections (a) to (i) in this regulation.

(3) The children's records were available and open for review by the inspectors as authorised persons.

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) &(b)The following examples demonstrate how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service:

Basic needs:

- The staff members in all care rooms were observed encouraging and working in partnership with children in their play activities. They used welcoming facial expressions and gentle vocal tones when engaging with the children and showed a keen interest in what each child was doing. The younger children attending the Little Rascals room were observed being held, sung to and spoken to and the staff members named the items that the younger showed an interest in. The children in each care room showed confidence around the staff members and an enthusiasm to engage with them in conversations and play.
- Breakfast was available for children each morning, if required. Food was prepared on-site on a daily basis, and a varied and nutritious 4-week menu was on display. On the day of inspection, pureed fruit with natural yogurt was served for morning snack, Banana pancakes and orange slices were served for lunch between 12 midday and 12:30pm with roast chicken, mashed potato, carrots and broccoli served for dinner at 2:30pm. Cheese and ham sandwiches were provided for tea, special dietary requirements and preferences were respected. The staff members sat with the children at mealtimes, chatting and providing assistance as required which created a relaxed atmosphere. In each care room, children who were able

were encouraged to feed themselves with assistance and encouragement provided by staff members as required, and plenty of time allowed for the children to eat without rushing. Drinking water was available and accessible to the children in the individual care rooms.

- The children who were not yet toilet trained had their nappies changed regularly and also in between scheduled changes as was required. Staff members from the Little Rascals Room and the Little Climbers Room were heard chatting and singing to the children when they were having their nappies changed. The staff members were observed to be sensitive and responsive to the children's cues to use the toilet, with supervision and assistance provided when necessary.
- Staff members in the Little Rascals room informed the inspector that the children were generally facilitated to sleep in line with their home routine and that children who showed signs of tiredness would be facilitated to sleep when their needs dictated outside of the scheduled times. The children in the Little climbers' room who still availed of a day-time nap were placed to sleep for a scheduled period of rest after dinner.
- Outdoor play was facilitated for the children in all the care rooms on the day of the inspection with the children dressed appropriately before going outside.

Supporting relationships:

- A welcoming atmosphere in the service was evidenced by the staff members greeting children, parents, and guardians in a friendly manner on their arrival to the service. Family photographs were on display in the service which enabled the children to maintain links and bridge the gap between the service and home.
- A child who had recently commenced attendance in the Little Rascals room was observed to be well supported on the day of inspection. At times when the child needed additional support and comforting during attendance, this was promptly and kindly offered by the staff members, with cuddles, reassuring words and singing provided with soothing effect. Throughout the care rooms familiar routines were in place and children's transitions were supported as evidenced by the staff members signposting which activities were coming next, including snack and mealtimes, nappy changing, sleep time and indoor and outdoor play.
- The staff members in the 4 care rooms in the service were observed to be consistent in their interactions with the children, providing regular praise and encouragement, asking open ended questions thereby giving the children the opportunity to express their thinking and feelings, and ensuring that each child in

was happy and engaged in activity. The staff members were very familiar with the children and spoke about the children positively in turn the children were observed to be comfortable in their environments and sought out staff members with comfort and ease.

Physical and material environment:

- The care rooms were laid out in clearly defined interest areas to prompt and support children to engage in self-directed and imaginative play. Interest areas included home and kitchen corners, construction areas, arts and crafts zones and a wide selection of jigsaws and tabletop materials which were stored on low-level open fronted shelving which were accessible to the children in attendance.
- Stable props including pull-to-stand bars and push along toys were provided in the Little Rascals Room to support the children to engage in physical and gross motor activity through self-initiated movement.
- Sensory play was supported in each of the care rooms through the provision of materials including sand in the outdoor play area, play dough and paints.
- A suitable range of books were available in the library areas which provided choice and supported children's language development.
- Children's artwork including their Halloween-themed artwork decorated the walls in the care rooms.
- An enclosed outdoor area was located to the side of the service with direct access available from the Little Rascals room, the Little Explorers room and the Little Adventurers room. The area was surfaced with artificial grass and provided space for running and free movement. A large climbing dome and a rigid crawl through tunnel provided the children with the opportunity for physical play, a sand table facilitated sensorial play experiences for the children and a selection of dress up materials promoted the children's imaginary play experiences. Additionally push along toys and a slide were available for the children to use. The children from all 4 care rooms enjoyed time in the outdoor play area on the day of inspection.

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 doors leading into the premises were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The warm water temperature in the sanitary accommodation did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C which reduced the risk of scalding for the children.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely on high shelving out of reach of children.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children on the day of inspection.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled running warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at all wash hand basins in the service.
- Documented up to date cleaning schedules were available.
- The children in the service were facilitated to wash their hands before eating and following outdoor and messy play. Children who were toilet trained were gently reminded and assisted when necessary to wash their hands after using the toilet.
- Staff members wore individual disposable aprons and disposable gloves for nappy changing procedures and washed their own hands before changing gloves between each nappy change. Children's hands were washed after they had their nappies changed.
- Staff members described effective soother management procedures, with all individually labelled soothers washed and then sterilised twice daily in a microwave steriliser in the Baby Room and stored in personalised containers when not in use.
- The sand tables provided in the outdoor play area were covered when not in use, to prevent contamination by animals and birds.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- A review of the records demonstrated that sleep checks noting the children’s breathing pattern, colour and position were carried out and documented at 10 minutes intervals on all sleeping children in the service.
- In discussion with the inspectors, staff members were familiar with national best practice safe sleep guidelines. A documented care plan with risk assessment and written parental consent was available for 2 children who slept on floor beds on the day of inspection in the Little Rascals room.

Fire Safety:

- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.

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) Three staff members held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training. Based on a review of the staff members’ training records and the service’s staff roster, it was evident that the registered provider ensured that a person with FAR training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in readily accessible positions on the premises, out of the reach of children.

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 was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service. Based on the records maintained and as reported by staff members, fire drills were carried out monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on 26/09/2025.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced on 24/03/2025 and the smoke detection system on 31/07/2025.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the service.