

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MO016
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bangor Childrens Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Church Road, Bangor-Erris, Ballina, Co. Mayo
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<b>Eircode:</b>	F26 VC58
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Amanda Carabine
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	02/03/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	-
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Farrell
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable.
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### Description of service

Bangor Childrens Centre is registered to provide sessional services from 09:15-12:15hours to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The service is in a purpose-built building beside a primary school in Bangor, Co Mayo. There is one large playroom, a kitchen, office and sanitary facilities in the service. The children have access to enclosed outdoor play areas to the front, rear and sides of the building.

### Staffing

There were five staff members working in the service at the time of the inspection including childcare workers and an additional staff member providing administrative support. One of the staff was employed through a community employment scheme. There was an adult student on placement in the service at the time of the inspection.

### 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 and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 16. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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 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*

*(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 in the service and there was a named person to deputise in her absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge and deputy was present on the inspector's unannounced arrival at the service and were present throughout the inspection. A review of the attendance records showed that the designated person in charge or deputy was present in the service during opening hours.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that three new adults who worked directly with the children had been employed since the previous inspection. In addition, Garda vetting for three staff member whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.
- (a) Two written validated references from past employers particularly the most recent employers for two adults and one reference from a past employer was available for one adult.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all six adults whose files were reviewed. The service also 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 one adult whose vetting documentation showed that they had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Evidence of the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent was available for five staff members who worked directly with the preschool children.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) A second validated reference from a past employer was required for one adult in the service.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The service advised in writing that:

(2)(a)

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

A second reference was obtained for the adult.

In future the staff will ensure that all staff files are up to date.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the written validated reference from a past employer.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted to the Inspectorate by the service has been reviewed and deemed to have addressed the regulatory non-compliance found on inspection under Regulation 9.

## 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) An adequate number of adults were observed to work directly with the children in the service during the inspection. On the inspector's announced arrival to the service there were 4 adults working directly in the playroom with 20 children. Review of a sample of attendance records found that adequate numbers of staff had been provided to work directly with the children.

(3) The minimum ratio for sessional services providing care to children over 2 ½ years of 1 adult to each 11 children was adhered to with four adults working directly with a maximum of 20 children during the 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:*

- (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) to (i) A random sample of ten records of children who currently attend the service were reviewed by the inspector and the information required under sections (a) to (e) and (g) to (i) was available in the children’s records.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) (f) Relevant information regarding illness and disabilities of children was not available in the child records provided for inspection. It is acknowledged that following the inspection an updated child record template with a specific section for this information was submitted to the Inspectorate on the 3 March 2026.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The service advised in writing that:

(1)(f)

### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The child record template has been updated.

The staff will ensure that all relevant information is recorded on the child record templates.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

A copy of the updated child record template.

## Summary Comment

The non-compliance found on inspection under Regulation 15 has been addressed by the actions and evidence submitted to the Inspectorate by 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:*

*(a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor.*

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was no record of employment history on file for one adult in the service. It is acknowledged that on the 3 March 2026, the service submitted a copy of employment history for the adult to the Inspectorate.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The service advised in writing that:

(1)(a)

### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

An employment history was obtained for the adult.

The service will ensure in future that staff files are up to date.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

A copy of the employment history.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the service has been reviewed by the Inspectorate and found to have addressed the regulatory non-compliance found on inspection.

### 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)

The service provided a snack of fresh fruit and a choice of sandwiches to children during the session which were eaten by the children in groups sitting at tables supervised by staff members. Drinks of water were always available and accessible if a child was thirsty with jugs of water provided at snack time that children used to pour out water developing pouring skills. Snack time was sociable and unrushed with children allowed by the staff to take their time eating and drinking.

There was a rest area with soft seating next to the book corner where children were observed to choose to sit and relax at times during the inspection. One of the story books about a little fox was read by a staff member to the children following playing outside towards the end of the session. The children were encouraged to interact and ask questions during the story.

Children were prompted to be independent as much as possible, washing their hands, using the toilet by themselves and putting on their own coats and outdoor clothes. The staff helped children where needed depending on children's developmental stages.

The service had a keyworker system in place with children allocated to a key worker group. On the inspector's arrival to the service, the children were enjoying group play activities sitting in groups at tables engaging in building plastic blocks, playing with transport toys and linking activities. The staff were supporting conversations and encouraging the children for example to describe what they were building. There was a circle time group discussion and following this the staff and children sang a number of nursery rhymes. Interactions between staff and children appeared warm and children were observed to approach the staff with confidence.

Parents were observed to be greeted warmly by staff when they arrived to collect their children. The staff informed the inspector that meetings with staff and parents were held during the year for feedback to be provided and received. Parents attended the service at different times for example the outdoor concert that was held at Christmas. An electronic messaging system was also used to help provide service information to parents when needed. The staff made observations of the children's progress in the service and recorded this in individual learning journals that were made available to parents. A sample of the journals were reviewed and found to contain photographs of children engaging in various activities and samples of their art.

Children's behaviour was managed in a positive way by the staff who prepared the children for transitions between activities in advance. The service's daily routine was displayed in photograph form on the playroom wall and followed on the day giving a children a sense of predictability. Simple steps for staff to use if conflicts between the children arose requiring resolution were available in the playroom. The family wall in the playroom with photographs of children and their families created a link between the service and home for the children.

The playroom was laid out in defined, well-equipped interest areas with the toys and play equipment at a low level accessible to children facilitating choices of play activities. Wide ranges of toys including kitchen/home toys, transport toys, a large amount of tabletop activities including puzzles. A sand table with plastic play items was provided for messy play. The playroom was well supplied with art and craft materials and examples of children's artwork was displayed on the playroom walls for example colourful paintings of flowers. The children spent most of the time during the inspection playing outdoors in the enclosed outdoor space at the front of the building. The children ran around and enjoyed playing on ride on toys such as tractors reflecting the rural location of the service and with hula hoops and on the low-level activity/climbing system. A second well-developed grass area to the rear of the building was not used on the day as the ground was very wet following large daily rainfalls in the previous weeks. This area had a 'fairy area' and large wooden yellow and green climbing system in the shape of a tractor.

## 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 found to be secured on the inspector's arrival. The kitchen door from the playroom was secured with staff members controlling access to the area. Cleaning products were stored in the kitchen and inaccessible to the children. Toys and play equipment provided were observed to be in good condition and appropriate for the ages and developmental stages of the children playing with them. The outdoor area was enclosed and secured when the children played outside with the staff ensuring that children were always supervised by sight.

##### Infection Control:

The staff cleaned down tables after play activities and the mealtime. Cleaning processes were recorded on record sheets that were observed to be up to date and displayed in the relevant areas of the service such as the playroom. Warm water and liquid soap were available in the sanitary units for children and staff to wash their hands with paper towel provided to dry them with. Foot pedal bins were provided and observed to be correctly used by children for waste disposal. A refrigerator was provided for perishable food storage.

##### Administration of Medication:

No medication was observed to be administered during the inspection. The staff showed awareness of safe procedures for storing and administering medicines during conversation with the inspector.

##### Fire Safety:

The emergency exit doors and routes were observed to be unobstructed during the inspection.

### 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) Written records of the monthly fire drills undertaken in the service were kept by the staff. Records showed that the last fire drill was undertaken on the 27 February 2026.
- (b) Records were available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. The records showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 12 February 2026.
- (2) (c) The fire records were made available by staff to the inspector on request.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire with maps of escape plan were clearly displayed in the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) Records on file showed that the fire alarm/smoke alarm system was maintained on the 22 March 2024 which was outside the required annual maintenance of systems. It is acknowledged that following the inspection, a record of maintenance for the system dated the 2 March 2026 was received by email.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### The service advised in writing that:

(1)(b)

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

Fire alarm/ smoke alarm was inspected and is up to date.

The staff will ensure that fire/smoke alarms are maintained annually.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

A copy of maintenance record for the fire alarm/smoke alarm dated the 2 March 2026.

## **Summary Comment**

The regulatory non-compliance found on inspection has been addressed by the actions and evidence submitted to the Inspectorate by the service.