

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN008
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Name of Service:	Chatterland Creche
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Address of Service:	Palace Walk, Elphin, Co. Roscommon
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Eircode:	F45 P772
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aine Wynne
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	09/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	21
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency Government Buildings, Convent Road Roscommon Town
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Kennedy
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Chatterland crèche is a privately owned and operated early years' service which has been notified since 2001. It caters for children from 0-6 years and is registered to cater for school aged children. It was advised by the registered provider that the school age service is not in operation at present.

The hours of opening are from 08:00-18:00 Monday to Friday. It operates from a purpose-built facility. The premises is a single storey building with four playrooms namely the baby room (0-1years), baby butterfly room (1 to 2 years), the caterpillar room (2-3 years) and the butterfly room (3-5 years). A dedicated sleep room is provided in the service in addition to a kitchen and sanitary facilities. A large enclosed outdoor area is provided at the rear of the premises. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 33 preschool children. The pedagogy of the service is based on a play-based curriculum.

Staffing

The registered provider is the named adult in charge of operating the service together with a named staff member to act as deputy if required. There are five adults including the registered provider are employed to work directly with the children and hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. Additionally, a chef is employed for food preparation and provides relief to cover breaks/lunches in the preschool rooms.

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 Regulations 9,11,22,23,25,26,28 and 29. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 registered provider, deputy 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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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 there was a named person available to deputize in the service.
- (b) On the day of the inspection, the deputy person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived at 9:40hrs and the registered provider arrived at 10hrs and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Documentary evidence in the form of staff rotas indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider on the day, it was determined that vetting for one staff member required review. In addition, Garda vetting for two staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review. The following information was made available for inspection for the one staff whose vetting file was reviewed:
- (a) and (b) Two validated written references on file, in respect of the staff, were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of 7 adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting was available on file for two adults who had lived outside of the State for longer than six months as adults.
- (4) Evidence of the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent was available for the one new staff who worked directly with the preschool children.

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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that the adult child ratios were adhered to.

(2) Documentary evidence indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 21 pre-school children aged between 12 months to 5 years.

Three children were aged 1 to 2 years,

Eleven children were aged 2 to 3 years,

Seven children were aged 3 to 5 years.

There were five childcare staff directly caring for these children.

In the afternoon, there were 21 pre-school children aged between 12 months to 5 years.

Three children were aged 1 to 2 years,

Eleven children were aged 2 to 3 years,

Seven children were aged 3 to 5 years.

There were five childcare staff directly caring for these children

(8)(a)

The registered provider ensured that there were two staff on the premises while the pre-school was operating.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- From 8.00hrs to 9.00hrs, the service provided breakfast cereal for any child who was hungry.
- From 10:00hrs the children had toast.
- Children attending the sessional services had a selection of fruit pieces, cheese, meat slices, crackers, and yogurts, provided from home.
- From 11:30 -12:00hrs, the children had pasta, mincemeat and vegetables.
- At 14:15hrs the children had afternoon snack of yoghurts.
- At 15 30hrs the children had ham and cheese wraps, a selection of fruits and water to drink.
- The meals were cooked on site.
- The meals and snacks were of appropriate textures for infants and toddlers.
- The children attending the service on a full day care and part time basis had two meals and snacks. The children attending the full day care service had a hot meal provided by the service. The person in charge advised that the staff ensured that each meal snack had two food groups. The person in charge advised that there was a supply of food in the kitchen, for any child requiring additional food.
- A drinks table was available in each playroom to allow the children the opportunity to 'self-serve' their drinks.
- Perishable items from children's lunch boxes were stored in designated fridges.

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:

- The main entrance door was secure to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The external play areas to the rear of the premises were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trip or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Blind cords were securely fastened thereby preventing any potential risk.
- Windows had restrictive access devices as a safety precaution.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.

Infection Control:

- Children's hands were washed before snacks and meals, after toileting and nappy changing, after blowing their nose, after messy and outdoor play.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and in designated storage containers.
- The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled and stored within the nappy changing area.
- The nappy changing area had a leak-proof, sealable airtight container for the disposal of nappies.
- The nappy changing policy was displayed on the wall of the nappy changing area and staff completed nappy changing sheet records for each child requiring nappy change, with a section for staff comment / remedial action taken.
- A cleaning and disinfection schedule was presented and available for inspection. There were cleaning schedules and records for the playrooms, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas and on the cleaning and disinfection procedure undertaken in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray; the early years inspector observed this practice on the day of inspection.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playrooms.
- The outdoor play equipment was cleaned after use, and prior to each child's use with documented records maintained.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- The staff advised that currently there was no child on medication.
- The staff were familiar with the medication administration policy of the service if medication needed to be administered.
- Suncreams were supplied by the parents and guardians, and stored in the service, with dates of expiry checked on an annual basis.

Safe Sleep:

- There was a designated sleep room, with six cots room for younger children's sleep provision.
- Stackable beds and mats were available for older children requiring sleep if required. On the day of inspection, children were observed sleeping on demand.
- The sleep policy detailed the correct temperature, lighting, ventilation, space between cots and child safety requirements.
- The early years inspector observed, and documentary evidence indicated that the staff physically checked sleeping children every 10 minutes. The service kept documented sleep records. Records for sleeping children included the room temperature and the position, colour and breathing of the child and the signature of the staff member who physically checks the sleeping child.
- A digital wall thermometer was available in the sleep room and used as the method of recording the sleep room temperature and therefore taking remedial action when temperatures were above 20 °C and below 16 °C.
- A supply of clean linen was available for each child.
- Cellular blankets, that allow air to circulate were used for sleeping children under 2 years of age.

Fire Safety:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Records on file demonstrated that fire drills were carried out frequently which helped to ensure that adults and children were familiar with the procedure in the event of an actual fire.
- Fire doors throughout the building were 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) The service provided evidence that there were four staff trained in first aid for children available to the children, attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) There was a first aid box with content items in date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Part VI – Safety

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated 23rd of March 2026.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 1st of September 2025 and the smoke detection system serviced on 2nd of March 2026.
- (4) A notice of the drill procedure was displayed in each of the preschool rooms and in the hallway of the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

There was evidence of certification of adequate insurance which had an expiry date 27th of March 2027.

The insurance for 33 pre-school children was for a full day care service, included the following:

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 service was maintained in an appropriate and adequate state of repair.
- (b) The entrance into the service and the outdoor play areas were adequately secured to prevent a child exiting and an unauthorised person entering the premises.
- (c) The playrooms were adequately lit, ventilated, and heated.
- (d) The premises was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- (e) The sanitary facilities were adequate for the needs and requirements of the children attending the service.