

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015RN010
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Croghan Fairy Bush Ltd
-------------------------	------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Carrowmore, Croghan, Boyle, Co. Roscommon
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	F52 NA48
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Brenda Reynolds
-------------------------------------	-----------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	27/11/2025
-------------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	32	PM	25
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co Roscommon,
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A. Kennedy and M. Farrell
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

This ground floor full day care service is in a rural village of Croghan, near the town of Boyle, Co. Roscommon. A full day care service from 8.00hrs to 17.30hrs, and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care pre-school programmes are offered. The service caters for children aged between 1 to 6 years. The service is registered for a maximum number of 70 pre-school children, at any one time. Additionally, the service is registered to provide a breakfast club and after school programme for school aged children. There are three playrooms namely the Toddler room, the Butterfly room, and the Pre-school room. There is also a dining room / school age area. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is a sleep room adjacent to the Toddler room with five cots. Additionally, six stackable beds are available for any older child requiring sleep provision. Quiet rest areas with child size seating are available for children to rest or opt out of an activity if he/ she wishes to do so. There are outdoor play areas to the rear and side of the premises for children's fresh air, exploration, and play.

### Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. There is a person in charge and there is a named deputy person in charge. There are twelve staff working in the premises. Additionally, there is a designated chef, who works in the service kitchen.

### 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 sections of Regulations 9, 11, 16, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 28. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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.

### Additional Information

On the day of the inspection an immediate action notice was issued, for Regulation 23 (Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child).

### 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.*

*(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 a named adult to deputise in her absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge and the deputy was available on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, the information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that eight new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection of the 20 March 2024. Six of these new staff members worked directly with the children. The eight vetting files for the new staff members were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting documents for the four other staff members whose disclosures were also reviewed.
- The following vetting information was made available by the designated person in charge for inspection:
- (a) Two written, validated references from past employers particularly their most recent employer were available on file for four staff and one written validated reference from a past employer for one staff member.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all twelve adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting for staff members every three years.
- (4) Evidence of the required Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent was made available for the six new staff who worked directly with the preschool children. Qualifications for the other staff members who worked directly with the children had been reviewed on the previous inspection and been found to be compliant with the regulations.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2) The following vetting documents were unavailable for inspection:
- (a) Two written validated references from past employers were required for each of two staff members. A second written, validated reference from their most recent past employer was required for one staff member. A second written validated reference from a previous employer was required for another staff member and evidence of the validation by the service of their first reference available on file was required.

- (d) The employment history on file for two staff members contained insufficient detail to confirm if international police vetting was required for this person.

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

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The manager of the service submitted a written response to state

(2)(a) The written references have been obtained and validated.

(2)(d) Employment histories have been updated and no police vetting is required for these two staff members.

The recruitment policy has been updated to ensure all references are updated in a timely manner.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

The manager submitted evidence of the two references for two staff members and a second reference was obtained for one staff member and evidence of validation of the references.

Updated employment histories for two staff members.

### Summary Comment

The early years inspectorate have accessed the evidence submitted and actions taken and deems it to comply with 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.*

*(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.*

*(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*

*(a) a sessional pre-school service, and*

*(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

### Compliance Information

(1) There were 7 adults including the designated person in charge working directly with 32 children on the inspectors' unannounced arrival to the service.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratios were maintained during the unannounced inspection as follows:

Toddler playroom: 3 staff cared for 10 children aged from 18 months to 3 years of age attending full day

care services.

Butterflies playroom: 2 staff cared for 5 children attending full day care services and an additional 3 children attending sessional services between 9:30-12:30 hours during the inspection. The children attending this room were all aged from 3 to 4 years

Preschool playroom: 2 staff cared for 11 children attending full day care services and 3 children attending sessional services between 9:30-12:30 hours during the inspection. The children in this playroom ranged in age from 3 to 5 years of age.

(4) The minimum adult to child sessional ratios were adhered to by the service when sessional and full day care services were provided contemporaneously.

## 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 the experience of one staff member available on file in the service.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The manager of the service submitted a written response to advise

(1)(a) The staff member has provided a curriculum vitae.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

The curriculum vitae for the staff member.

#### Summary Comment

The early years inspectorate have accessed the evidence submitted and action taken and deems it to comply with Regulation 16.

## 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

- There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service. The person in charge advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by visual aids, and adherence to best practice guidelines.
- Between 8am and 9am the children were provided with cereal, toast and a selection of fruits.
- At 10.20hrs, the children had their snack provided by the service which included bacon, waffles and toast.
- At 13.00hrs, the service provided children with the main meal of mincemeat, cabbage, gravy and mashed potato and or water/juice to drink.
- At 15.00hrs, the service offered the children rice pudding with fresh berries.
- Drinking water was available at a low-level countertop and accessible to children in the play spaces.

## 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 secured to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The external play area to the rear of the premises was secured so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trip or strangulation hazard.

##### Infection Control:

- Children were observed washing their hands after toileting / nappy changing, outdoor play, messy play and after blowing their noses. The children washed their hands under supervision prior to their snacks and mealtimes.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and stored 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.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray and the inspectors 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.

### Administration of Medication:

- The staff showed awareness of the correct procedures for the administration and storage of medication. No child was required to have medication given to them during the inspection.

### Safe Sleep:

- There were five cots, and six stackable beds available in the designated sleep room, for children requiring sleep provision. On the day of inspection, two children were observed sleeping in cots and on demand following signs of tiredness, with a sleep room temperature of 18.5°C.
- Each child had designated linen stored in the sleep room, in individual storage baskets.
- A staff member physically checked sleeping children's, colour, position and breathing and the room temperature and this was reflected in the sleep records.
- There was a digital wall thermometer in the sleep room to ensure safe sleep room temperatures.

### Fire Safety:

- 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.
- The emergency exit routes were observed to be free from obstruction during the inspection.

### Outing:

- It was advised by the person in charge that the children go for walks to the village café and to the polytunnels.
- The service had insurance for outings.

- The person in charge ensured that parents had provided consent, a risk assessment was carried out prior to the outing, emergency numbers are brought and there was a staff member with first aid training and a first aid box is brought on the outing, in the event of an emergency.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. An immediate action notice was issued in relation to blind cords in the toddler room, butterfly room and the preschool room. These were not secured and potentially accessible to the children.
2. There was a broken bench in the outdoor area with potential pinch points posing potential safety risks to a child.
3. A lath of wooden was missing from a wooden playhouse and a sharp plastic edge was exposed on a tricycle and posing a potential safety risk to children in the toddler playroom outdoor play area.
4. A large amount of plumber's expandable foam had been used as part of repair works under a sink in the Preschool sanitary area and was accessible by children posing a potential safety risk to children.
5. A cupboard storing cleaning products under the sink in the toddler room and under the sink in the nappy changing area were not adequately secured posing a potential safety risk to children.
6. The tap on a play kitchen was loose, and a plastic toolbox as broken with potential pinch points posing potential safety risks to a child.

#### Infection Control:

7. There were three couches in the dining area with large tears in the covering exposing foam and three couches in the butterfly playroom which were frayed posing difficulties in cleaning and potential infection control.
8. The waste bin in the nappy change area was not the required foot pedal operated bin and posed an infection control risk.
9. There was no soap provided at the wash hand basin in the nappy changing area to enable effective hand washing.
10. There was evidence of staining on the stainless-steel sink in the nappy changing area.

#### Safe Sleep:

11. The cot mattresses on two cots in the dedicated toddler sleep room were propped with cushions underneath.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. On the 28 November 2025 the person in charge advised the Inspectorate that the three blind cords have been secured and provided photographic evidence.
2. The wooden bench has been repaired.
3. The playhouse has been repaired.
4. The foam has been levelled off.
5. Locks have been fitted on all accessible presses in the care rooms.
6. The tap on the play kitchen has been secured, and the plastic toolbox has been disposed of.

#### Infection control

7. The couches have been removed.
8. A new foot operated pedal bin has been ordered.
9. A new soap dispenser has been installed.
10. The stainless-steel sink in the nappy changing area has been thoroughly cleaned.

#### Safe Sleep:

11. The cot mattresses are no longer propped up.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Photographic evidence was submitted of

1. The secured blind cords on the windows in the toddler room, butterfly room and preschool room.
2. The repaired wooden bench.
3. The repaired playhouse.
4. Photographic evidence of the levelled expandable foam under the sink in the sanitary area.
5. Photographic evidence of the locks fitted on the low-level presses in each of the care rooms.
6. Photographic evidence of the secured tap in the play kitchen in the toddler room.
7. Photographic evidence of the removed couches.
8. Proof of purchase and photographic evidence of a new nappy bin.
9. The installed soap dispenser.
10. Photographic evidence submitted of the cleaned stainless-steel sink in the nappy changing area.

## Safe Sleep:

- 11 Photographic evidence of the cots with no pillows propping the mattresses.

## Summary Comment

The early years inspectorate have assessed the evidence submitted and actions taken and deem it to address the non-compliances under Regulation 23.

## 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 a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Three staff members had current training in first aid for children.
- (2)
- (a) There was a first aid box with first aid content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were adequately equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

### 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 firefighting 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 16 November 2025.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The service record for the smoke and fire detection alarm system was not available for inspection.

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

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The manager of the service submitted a written response to state the smoke and fire detection system has been serviced.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

A copy of the service record of the smoke and fire detection system was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

#### Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 has been adequately addressed.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service's insurance with an expiry date 27 March 2026, was for a full day care service covering a maximum of 70 children and included the following:

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.