

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015RN011
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Cuan Bhride Childcare Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Cuan Mhuire, Ballinderry, Four Mile House, Co. Roscommon
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<b>Eircode:</b>	F42 W326
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Georgina Clarke
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	30/07/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	37	PM	33
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Year's Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A. Kennedy
<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

This community operated pre-school was established in 2006. The service offers full day care and part time care provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs, for children aged between 0 to 6 years, from Monday to Friday. Additionally, an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes are offered. The service also operates an afterschool programme for school aged children. The service is registered to cater for a maximum number of 60 children, at any one time. There are four ground floor pre-school playrooms, namely the Baby room, the Toddler room, the Ladybug room, and the Busy Bee room. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is an interlinked sleep room (with access to the Baby room and the Toddler room), with ten cots, available for younger children requiring sleep provision. Additionally, there are stackable beds, for older children's sleep provision. Quiet rest areas are available in each playroom for children to relax. There are outdoor play areas to the rear and front side of the premises. The service offers a child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests.

### Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. Fifteen staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. There are two chefs who prepare, cook, and serve the service meals / snacks on site.

### 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.

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 two persons 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*

*(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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the persons in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(b) On the day of the inspection, the two persons in charge were on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. The service showed evidence that there was always a named person consistently in charge, on a day-to-day basis.

(2) On the most recent inspection dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, twenty staff and three adults over the age of 18 years of age on a childcare work placement files were presented to the early year inspectors.

It was advised by the persons in charge that eight of those staff are no longer working in the service and there are no students presently on a childcare work placement in the service

It was advised by the persons in charge that six staff had commenced in the service since the inspection conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2024.

The following vetting information was available for six adults:

(a)(b) Twelve written validated references from previous employments or a reputable source were on file for the six adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Two of the six staff had resided outside the jurisdiction over 18 years of age for a period in excess of six months and had the required translated police vetting.

(4) The six files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

### 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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service. On the day of the inspection, the two persons in charge were on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the remainder of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available on the premises at all times when the pre-school children were present.

(2) On the morning of the inspection, there were 37 preschool children present.

- 9 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 12 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 16 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were seven staff directly caring for the preschool children. In the morning, the persons in charge assisted with the relief and break cover

In the afternoon of the inspection, there were 33 preschool children present. There were seven staff directly caring for the preschool children

- 8 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 10 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 15 children were aged between 3 to 6 years.

(8)(a) The persons in charge ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

### 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:

- There was a buzzer access system, into the main entrance front door.
- The staff only areas, office, kitchen, staff sanitary area and storage areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play areas 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 secured and or inaccessible to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The playroom temperatures were thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperatures were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hygienic hand washing was available.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- There were visibility posters on the glass doors as a safety precaution.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray.
- Materials and play equipment, both indoors and outdoors, were observed to be safe for the pre-school children using them and in a good state of repair.
- Blind cords were securely fastened thereby preventing any potential risk.

##### Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- During the inspection, the children were assisted and encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating, after nappy changing, after toileting, after using a tissue and after outdoor play.

- There were two designated nappy changing areas with a designated wash hand basin. It was advised during the inspection that the nappy changing area has relocated in the toddler room.
- This new nappy changing area has a nappy changing unit, a wash hand basin, storage space for children's belongings and a foot operated pedalled bin for the disposal of nappies and provides additional space to carry out the nappy changing process.
- The children in nappies were changed in a timely manner, on a regular basis. Staff involved in nappy changing wore a disposable apron and gloves.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Refrigerators were provided for the storage of perishable foods.

### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- The medicines examined were within date.
- The staff advised that the suncreams are supplied by parents and guardians, stored in the service and with dates of expiry checked on a regular basis.
- On discussion with staff in the pre-school rooms staff informed the inspector of five children with allergies or intolerances. Detailed care plans were in place for these children
- The staff were aware of the instructions and storage requirements of the medication.

### Safe Sleep:

- Children were observed sleeping on demand following cues / signs of tiredness. On the day of the inspection eight children from the creche room and one child from the toddler room were observed sleeping in cots and on a stackable bed. The older children in the Toddler room were observed sleeping on stackable beds. The older children had relaxation, chill out time.
- There was a safe sleep policy that detailed temperature, lighting, ventilation, space between cots and child safety requirements, as per the 'safe sleep for under 2's best practice guidelines for childcare services policy'.
- Sleep records were kept for each child's sleep, recording the time a staff physically checks a child, along with their signature. Additionally, the records included a sleeping child's colour, position, breathing and the temperature of the sleep room with the opportunity to document any necessary remedial actions taken.
- A digital thermometer was available in the sleep room and used as the method of recording the sleep room temperature and taking remedial action when temperatures were above 20 °C and below 16 °C.

- All linen provided was clean, dry, and stored in labelled baskets.
- A staff member supervised the sleeping children and physically checked their colour, position and breathing and the room temperature

### Fire Safety:

- A fire evacuation plan was displayed on the walls in each of the playrooms.
- All exits remained free from obstruction on the day.

### Outing:

- It was advised by the staff that the service recently had an outing for the preschool children to a local pet farm.
- The staff were familiar with the outings procedure and advised that a risk assessment had been completed prior to the outing, consents were given by the parents and guardians and the first aid box and the emergency contact numbers, and spare clothes were brought on the trip.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. The fingerguards fitted on the door to the sanitary area off the toddler room were loose and could pose a potential safety concern.
2. The flush handle on one of the toilets in the toddler sanitary area was loose and could pose a potential safety concern. It is acknowledged that subsequent to the inspection, the person in charge submitted evidence to the inspectorate that this has been repaired.

### Infection Control:

3. In the sheltered space in the outdoor area, there were soft shapes had evidence of being frayed and torn, thereby preventing effective cleaning. It is acknowledged subsequent to the inspection the person in charge advised that these have been taped to provide a smooth surface and enable effective cleaning.

### Safe Sleep:

4. On the day of the inspection, it was observed that measures to maintain a safe sleeping temperature between 16–20°C were not in place. The dedicated sleep room used by the children from the creche room and the toddler room did not meet the recommended temperature range during the inspection period.  
The following room temperature recordings were taken on the day of the inspection:  
At 12.57 hrs, the room temperature reading was 21.5°C and at 14.08hrs the room temperature reading was 22.1°C and seven children were sleeping.

It is acknowledged that on the day of the inspection, when staff were advised by the early years inspector of the high temperatures, the staff opened windows to enhance cross ventilation to reduce the temperature of the room during the sleep period and subsequent to the inspection the person in charge advised the inspectorate that the room temperature is been monitored to ensure it is maintained between 16 and 20°C.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

The person in charge submitted a written response to the office of the early years inspectorate to advise that

#### General Safety:

1. The fingerguards were fixed and replaced where necessary.
2. The toilet flush handle was fixed in Toddler room toilet.

#### Infection Control:

3. The soft play shapes where fixed using duct tape to ensure no tears are visible.

#### Safe Sleep:

4. The sleep room is now monitored daily from 8am to ensure it is maintained between 16 and 20°C.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted of

#### General Safety:

1. The newly fitted fingerguards on the door to the sanitary area off the toddler room.

#### Infection Control:

2. The repaired toilet flush handle in the toddler room toilet.
3. The repaired soft play shapes.

#### Safe Sleep:

4. The digital temperature reading of the sleep room

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.

### 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 five staff trained in first aid for children available to the children, attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) There were six first aid boxes on the premises with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully 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 9<sup>th</sup> of June, and it was advised and evidence was submitted that a fire drill was carried out subsequent to the inspection on 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2025.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2024. The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the pre-school rooms of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises

### 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 of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was for a full day care, catering for 95 children. The insurance covered the following,

- Public liability,
- Personal accident,
- Insurance against fire and theft,
- Buildings,
- Outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

### 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 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. It was observed during the inspection, that the flooring in the Toddler room, Busy Bees room and the sanitary area off the Ladybugs room and the Busy bees room has been replaced since the previous inspection and it was advised by the person in charge that the flooring in the Ladybugs room and the reception hallway is due to be replaced on week commencing the 11<sup>th</sup> of August when the service is closed for holidays.

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(e) The sanitary facilities were adequate for the needs and requirements of the children attending the service.