

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN040
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Name of Service:	Nurtures Best Creche CLG
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Address of Service:	Main Street, Tarmonbarry, Co. Roscommon
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Eircode:	N39 DH57
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Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Callery
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Service type:	Full Day
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Dates of Inspection:	25/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	65	PM	50
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Kennedy and M. Farrell
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
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Description of service

This pre-school service is located in the main street in the village of Tarmonbarry, Co. Roscommon. The service operates a full day care service from 8.00rs to 17.30hrs. The service caters for children aged between 0 to 6 years. The service is registered for a maximum number of 89 pre-school children, at any one time. There are six pre-school playrooms. The Baby room, Wobbler room and Toddler room are on the ground floor, and the Butterfly room, Bumblebee room and Starling room are on the first floor. There is a designated School aged room, the office, a staff room, and storage areas on the second floor. There is a designated kitchen where the snacks and main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There are outdoor play areas to the rear of the premises, which include an all-weather sheltered area and a fairy/sensory garden.

Staffing

There are 18 staff in the service including the manager, childcare staff, a cook and a designated administrator. The registered provider does not work 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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 22, 23, 28 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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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

An Immediate Action Notice was issued onsite to the service during the inspection in relation to the absence of the required garda vetting documentation for one adult. Please see body of report for more detail.

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*

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(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 and there was a named person available to deputize in the service.
- (b) On the day of the inspection, the person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived 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 person in charge on the day it was determined that vetting for six staff members required review. Five of these staff members work directly with the children. A total of six files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for three staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review. The following information was made available for inspection for the six staff whose vetting files were reviewed:
- (a) and (b)
- Eight 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 19 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 four 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.

Non-Compliance Information

The following vetting information was unavailable for inspection:

- (2) (a) A second reference from a past employer was required for one adult. There was no evidence of the validation of references for one adult. Evidence of the validation of a reference from their most recent employer was unavailable for another adult.
- (c) Garda vetting documents were unavailable for one adult. An Immediate Action notice was issued to the service in relation to this. It is acknowledged on 30th of March the manager advised that this staff member is placed on study leave and will have no access to children until the garda vetting is processed.
- (d) The information in relation to employment histories for four staff members was incomplete.
- (4) The information available on file regarding the qualifications for two staff members did not clearly demonstrate that the qualification met the regulatory requirements.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(a) The person in charge submitted a written response to the office of the early years inspectorate to state A second reference was obtained for one adult and evidence of validation of references was submitted for two adults and the manager and administrator will check that two references are obtained and validated for all future employments.
- (c) Garda vetting has been obtained for the adult. The manager and administrator will ensure the garda vetting is complete before an employee starts in the service.
- (d) the employment histories have been updated for four staff members, and the manager and administrator will check the employment histories before an employee starts.
- (4) Qualifications for all staff will be checked on dcedy early years recognised qualifications.

Supporting documentation submitted

The person in charge submitted a copy of the second reference obtained for one staff member and evidence of validation of references for two staff members.

A copy of the garda vetting for one staff member.

Updated employment histories for four staff members.

Evidence that the qualifications met the regulatory requirements.

Employee records checklist form template.

Summary Comment

The early years inspectorate have assessed the actions taken and evidence submitted and deems it to meet Regulation 9.

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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 person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (2) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.
- On the morning of the inspection, there were 65 children present. All children were aged between 8 months to 5 years. There were 13 staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, the person in charge assisted with the administrative part of the inspection. There was a staff member designated to kitchen duties, preparing, cooking, and serving the service meals.
- In the afternoon of the inspection, there were 50 children present. All children were aged between 8 months to 5 years of age. There were 11 staff, directly caring for and supervising these children.
- Additionally, the person in charge assisted with the administrative part of the inspection.
- (8)(a) The person in charge ensured that there were two staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

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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

- The service had a healthy eating policy.
- From 8.00hrs to 9.00hrs, the service provided breakfast cereal for any child who was hungry.
- From 10:30hrs to 11:00hrs, the younger children had fruit pots. Liga and water.
- Children attending the sessional services had a selection of fruit pieces, cheese, meat slices, crackers, and yogurts, provided from home.
- A morning snack of brown bread and sliced fruit was provided for older children who did not bring food from home.
- From 14:00hrs, the children had cottage pie with mashed potato.
- The meals were cooked on site.
- At 16:00hrs, the children had a selection of sandwiches with ham and cheese provided by the service.
- 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.

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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, kitchen, staff sanitary area and storage areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play area was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children, attending the pre-school.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were secured and or inaccessible to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hygienic hand washing was available. Radiators were thermostatically controlled not exceeding 50°C to prevent potential burning.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- Highchairs in the Baby room conformed to safety standards and had the 5-point safety harness system.
- There was a documented risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas, for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The person in charge clearly identified to the early year's inspectors, the drop off and collection procedures for children.

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, and after using a tissue.
- There were three designated nappy changing area with a designated wash hand basin. 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. There were a foot pedalled airtight sealable bins for the disposal of nappies.

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- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Refrigerators were provided for the storage of perishable foods.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- The person in charge had cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings.

Administration of Medication:

- Through discussion with the inspectors, the staff demonstrated that they were aware of the correct procedures for the administration of medicines.
- Medication was not observed to be administered to a child during the inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were observed sleeping on demand following cues / signs of tiredness. Throughout the inspection children from the Baby, and Wobbler were observed sleeping in cots. The older children in the Wobbler and Toddler rooms 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 an adult physically checks a child, and 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 each of the two sleep rooms 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.
- All linen provided was clean, dry, and stored in labelled baskets.
- Rest/quiet areas were provided in each of the playrooms to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he/she chose.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.

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Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Numerous sharp metal radiator valves in the upstairs hall, Butterflies room, Bumblebee room and Starling rooms did not have covers and posed a potential risk of injury to children.
- A wall mounted sign in the outdoor area was broken and posed a potential risk of injury to children.

Infection Control:

- In the nappy changing area and the sleep area adjoining the baby room, there was evidence of dust and debris on the ceiling mechanical ventilation covers.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The person in charge submitted a written response to state

- The radiator valves that did not have covers in upstairs hall, Butterflies room, Bumblebee room and Starling rooms have been replaced.
- The wall mounted sign in the outdoor area that was broken has now been removed.

Infection Control

- In the nappy changing area and sleep area adjoining the baby room, the dust & debris on the ceiling mechanical ventilation covers has been cleaned.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Photographic evidence of the replaced valves on the radiators in upstairs hall, Butterflies room, Bumblebee room and Starling rooms.
- Photographic evidence of the removed wall mounted sign in the outdoor area.

Infection Control:

- Photographic evidence of the cleaned mechanical ventilation covers in the baby sleep room and the nappy changing area.

Summary Comment

The early years inspectorate have assessed the actions taken and evidence submitted and deems it to meet Regulation 23.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A certificate of insurance was available valid until the 27 March 2026 for a maximum of 89 children attending the full day care services.

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) From a visual inspection the interior of the premises was of sound and stable structure.

(b) The entrance doors were secured to prevent children from exiting.

There was a buzzer code switch system for entry and an inaccessible switch for exiting.

Visitors signed a visitor book.

(c) Throughout the premises, there were no signs of mould, mildew, or condensation.

There was a means of air circulation with openable windows and or mechanical vents in the sanitary areas.

(d) The service had a records of regular rodent proofing.

(e) The hot water was thermostatically controlled below 43°C.

Children's toilets were partitioned with suitable doors to provide children with privacy.

There were seven children's toilets and three nappy changing areas and two staff toilets on the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(c) The air temperature in the Bumblebees room was measured at 14.5°C and 16.5°C at times during the inspection and not between the required 18-22°C.

(d) 1. A section of the linoleum floor covering in the Butterflies room sanitary area was lifting upwards and not appropriately secured to the floor.

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2. The divider/partition between the toilet cubicles in the Butterflies room sanitary area was damaged and required repair.
3. The door handle on the internal door to the first-floor stairway was damaged and required repair.
4. A large awning positioned over the main entrance to the premises was not maintained in a clean condition.
5. There were sections of the wooden surround on the windows at the front of the premises which were cracked, worn and missing and required replacement/repair.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The person in charge submitted a written response to state

(c) The Air temperature in the Bumblebees Room dropped due to our ventilation process this returned to required temperature once all windows and doors were closed and staff have been briefed on checking room temperature whilst ventilating the room to ensure the temperature does not drop below the requirements.

Regular maintenance spot checks by the Manager will now commence.

- (d) 1. The linoleum in Butterfly room has been taped/secured to prevent trip hazards until a full repair is carried out due for completion on 15/05/2026. The maintenance log has been updated to show the action needed.
2. The divider/partition between cubicles in the Butterfly room sanitary area will be repaired, due for completion on 04/08/2026. The maintenance log has been updated to show the action needed.
3. The door handle on the internal door to the first floor has been replaced. The maintenance log has been updated to reflect the repair.
4. The large awning over the front door has been removed and taken away. The maintenance log has been updated to reflect the completion.
5. Sections of wooden surround on the windows at the front of the premises have been removed and a new façade exterior replacement, is due for completion by 29/05/2026. The maintenance log has been updated to show the action needed.

Supporting documentation submitted

The person in charge submitted photographic evidence of the following:

3. the door handle on the internal door to the first-floor stairway has been replaced.
4. the large awning positioned over the main entrance to the premises has been removed.

A copy of the updated maintenance log.

Summary Comment

The early years inspectorate have assessed the actions taken and evidence submitted and deems it not to have met the requirements of Regulation 29 as (d), 2 and 5 remain outstanding.