

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY034
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Name of Service:	Lámha Beaga Playschool
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Address of Service:	Monatrea, Abbey Road, Thurles, Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E41 AT20
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Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Moloney, Mary Love
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	21/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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	N/A
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Description of service

This sessional service was established to provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old. A registered school age care service is also provided. The service operates Monday to Friday, 08:45 to 11:45 for 38 weeks of the year. Places are funded under the Early Childhood Care and Educations Scheme (ECCE) for eligible children. The service was operated from the ground floor of a two-storey, detached building in the town of Thurles in Co Tipperary. The service consisted of two activity rooms, a staff room/kitchenette and sanitary accommodation areas. One of the activity rooms was set up and used by the early years children and the other room was used by the school age children. There is an enclosed outdoor play area at the front and side of the premises.

Staffing

There are three staff employed in the service. This included the two registered providers who work with the children daily. Staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Education at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications. Additional training has been undertaken by staff which included the Leadership for Inclusion (LINC) programme.

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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(3) Staffing levels,
Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) (3)(c) Records in relation to a pre-school child,
Regulation 21 Equipment and materials,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,
Regulation 25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First aid
Regulation 29(a)(b)(c)(d)(e) Premises.

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 providers 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named deputy who was able to deputise, as required.

(b) A person in charge was present on the day of inspection. A person in charge was present daily.

The staff files for three staff including the two registered providers were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each staff member working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member working in the service. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable. Review of the curriculum vitae indicated that police vetting was not required.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working with pre-school children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children.
- (3) During the morning session there were 11 children being directly cared for by 2 staff.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
 - (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
 - (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
 - (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
 - (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
 - (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
 - (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
 - (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
 - (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

A sample of 12 completed registration forms were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

- (1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation.
- (3)(c) The registration forms were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service consisted of one large playroom which was very well equipped with a range of toys and materials to suit the ages of the children attending the service. The service had appropriately sized tables and chairs for the children. The service had personalised coat hooks for each child attending the service. The service had a wide range play resources available. There was clear interest areas developed within the room such as the kitchen area, construction area/toys, dolls/babies, dressing table, farm corner, selection of life skill toys and building blocks. There were also a well-resourced library and arts and crafts available to the children. The outdoor areas were fully enclosed to the front and side of the pre-school. There was a shed of resources which held a variety of toys and equipment for outdoor play.

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 premises was adequately secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining access. The entrance gate was locked. The main door to the premises was locked and needed to be opened from the inside. Staff were required to answer a call bell system to grant access to the preschool area. The outdoor play areas were secured. All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to children.

Infection control:

The service was clean and well maintained. There were designated children's toilets available off each classroom. Designated staff toilets were also provided in the upstairs of the premises. Hand washing facilities were adequately stocked with paper hand towels and liquid soap. Hand washing reminders were present at children's eye level in the toilets. Pedal bins were in operation to prevent cross contamination. There was a fridge present in the service to store perishable foods.

Fire safety:

There were fire evacuation procedures displayed in a prominent area within the service.
Firefighting equipment was present in the service.
Firefighting equipment had been serviced in May 2025.

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) There were staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) available to the children attending the service.
(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.
(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service.

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 premises appeared of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The front door of the service was kept secured while the service was in operation. Staff managed entry and exit from the service. There was a fence and gate at the front of the premises which created an enclosed outdoor play area. Staff, parents and children passed through the gate when accessing the service. The gate was secured when the children were outside. The gate and fence prevented children from accessing the road outside the premises without supervision.
- (c) The rooms were lit by natural light through windows in each room and in the sanitary accommodation areas, supplemented by artificial light when required. The heating was on, the day of inspection. The heating system was wall mounted radiators. There were openable windows in the activity rooms and sanitary accommodation areas, these were open on the day of inspection to aid the circulation of fresh air.
- (d) The premises was clean and well maintained. There were no visible repairs notable.
- (e) There were two children's toilets and wash hand basins in one sanitary accommodation area and a staff toilet, wash hand basin and nappy changing unit in the second sanitary accommodation area. This was sufficient accommodation for the number of children and staff in the service.