

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015TY086
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bansha Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ballinlough West, Bansha, Co Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E34 DT61
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Paula Grogan-Ryan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Antoinette McNamara
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<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

This part-time and sessional service was established to provide care and education to children aged 2 – 6 years old in the village of Bansha Co Tipperary. The service operates between 9am and 2pm, Monday to Friday. Places are funded under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for eligible children.

### Staffing

On the day of the inspection there were four staff working in the service. The registered provider is the designated person in charge and works directly with the children. All staff employed held qualifications at a level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) Records in relation to a pre-school child,

Regulation 19 (a) Health, welfare, and development of the child,

Regulation 22 Food and drink

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,  
Regulation 25 First aid

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, 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) The registered provider is the person in charge and oversees the operation of the childcare facility. One deputy was identified.

(b) The person in charge was present when the unannounced inspection commenced and facilitated the inspection process.

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

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

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for all five staff members 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 new staff working directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum 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.*

*(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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There were adequate staffing levels to respond to the children’s needs on the day of inspection. There were 4 staff working directly with 17 children.

(2) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection were above the minimum regulatory requirements.

### 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 10 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) The registration forms were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-  
(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

### Compliance Information

Regulation 19 was assessed through direct observation, review of records and discussions with staff:

(1)(a)

#### Basic needs:

Children enjoyed freedom of movement within their rooms and in the outdoor area. Staff reported that children accessed the outdoor area daily.

Children had access to their water bottles and were able to get a drink throughout the day. Bottles were refilled with water as required.

Interactions between staff and children were warm and sensitive. Staff spoke in low tones of voice and interacted with children at their level in all rooms.

There was a rest area available to the children in the room.

Children's individuality was fostered through displays of their artwork. The service promoted inclusion by having birthday charts and different languages displayed within the service.

#### Physical environment:

The indoor environment was warm and bright. A variety of defined areas of interest were provided for the children to play with. These included a well-resourced kitchen, dress up area, arts and crafts, building blocks and books. Low-level shelving provided children with access to a wide selection of activities. Adequate space was

available for children to engage in both floor and table play independently and in groups. The was room was laid out with appropriately sized furniture and a broad range of developmentally appropriate equipment and materials which were well organised.

The outdoor play area to the side and rear of the premise was divided into designated play spaces. There was a large open grass area and a smaller area that consisted of grass and concrete space. Children used the outdoor space daily. Children had access to building blocks, a covered sand pit, a climbing frame with a tunnel and a selection of ride on toys while outside.

### Supporting relationships:

The children benefitted from favourable adult to child ratios which enabled each child to receive as much individual attention and support as they needed.

The small group size supported the children to get to know each other well and to develop friendships within the group.

### Programme of activities

The service offered a child-centred and child-led approach to learning through play and exploration. The children were given freedom of choice in the morning when engaging in free play. After the class roll was called in the morning the children shared their news with the class. After snack time the children were divided into two groups, one group went outside while the other spoke about books and made bookmarks for national book week. These groups later rotated giving all children the opportunity to engage in both activities.

## 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. All foods eaten by the children were supplied by their parents. Children brought their own drink bottles which were stored on a shelf in their rooms, where they could be accessed by the children when they wanted them. Bottles were refilled with water as required. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge in the service. Staff sat with the children during snack time to supervise them, encourage conversation and to help if needed, for example with opening lunch boxes.

Foods eaten at snack time on morning of the inspection included: crackers, sandwiches, fruit, cheese and yogurts.

### 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 door to the service had to be opened by a staff member. A staff member was present in the outdoor area at all times when the children were outside. Cleaning agents and hazardous materials were stored inaccessible to children. There was a stair gate preventing access to the kitchen.

##### Infection control:

The service was clean and well maintained. Children were observed washing their hands before eating. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand washing in the service. The care room was cleaned after snack time and the tables were washed down.

### 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 responder (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.