

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX004
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Name of Service:	ABC Club-Early Years Service
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Address of Service:	Caroreigh, Taghmon, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y35 HW82
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Marie Whitty
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	22/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	14
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
Title:	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).

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Description of service

ABC Club Early Years Service is in a rural community in Co Wexford. The service provides a part-time service to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service also provides an Early Years Care and Education scheme (ECCE) and is registered to cater for a maximum of 23 children. The service is operated from a detached house which has been adapted for the use of the preschool service. The service consists of an entrance hall, two playrooms, one called Mo Chairde and one called Aistear na nÓg. There is a kitchenette, children's toilets and separate staff toilet. To the rear of the service there is a large, enclosed play area.

Staffing

There are four staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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:

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Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4)

Regulation 10 Policies and procedures,

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 15 Record of preschool children,

Regulation 17 Information for parents,

Regulation 21 Equipment and materials,

Regulation 22 Food and Drink,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,

Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),

Regulation 26 Fire safety measures,

Regulation 28 Insurance.

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) (b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were four staff employed in the service, including the registered provider. There was one new staff member employed since the last inspection, this file was reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

All required written and validated references were available on file for staff members.

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- (c)
Garda vetting disclosures have been obtained for all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.
- (d)
Police vetting was available for two staff who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)
All staff working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on infection control, and the policy on healthy eating in the service

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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.

Compliance Information

There were at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service.

(2)

At 11.00am

There were 17 children in the care of 3 staff.

At 1.00pm

There were 14 children in the care of 3 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;*

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- (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.*

Compliance Information

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of 10 forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

There was an information handbook for parents whose children were attending the service. The service had provided parents with information as required under the regulation. There was information included on the curriculum, the hours of operation, the funding schemes available and contact details. There was also information on the facilities available within the service, information on the day-to-day requirements and running of the service: healthy eating, medication management, behaviour management, complaints, fire safety and first aid.

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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 registered provider had ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture play and work equipment and materials available in the service as demonstrated by the following observations made on the day of inspection. Both preschool rooms were resourced with the play and learning needs of the children in mind. There were story books set up beside rest areas, bricks, small world figures, art materials crayons paper available. There was original artwork displayed drying on a line across the room.

The outdoor area was extensively developed to facilitate outdoor play. There was a lean to the side of the service used to store the children's outdoor waterproof gear. There were tables and benches for children to eat outside and extend their outdoor play time.

The outdoor area was resourced with play equipment such as a wigwam made of willow which had logs buried in the grass for children to sit on, a pit with soil which could be covered, swings, a playhouse and ride on toys for children to enjoy.

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 in place. The children were observed enjoying their afternoon snack which had been provided by their parents. Children were seated in the outdoor area at picnic benches. Parents had provided a variety of food such as fruit, sandwiches, yogurts and diced vegetables. Children were given water to drink, and staff were observed topping up children's drink bottles when required.

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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:

Access to the service was gained through the front door by ringing a bell. The door remained secure for the duration of the inspection. All cleaning agents were placed out of reach of the children. The outdoor area was safe, suitable and secure.

Infection Control:

The service was observed to be clean. Staff were observed to be vigilant in supporting children to wash their hands before snacks, after using the toilet and after messy play. There was an outdoor tap to facilitate children to wash their hands before their afternoon snack.

Administration of medication

The service had an administration of medication policy. A sample of 10 administration of medication documents were reviewed by the inspector. Parental consent was signed and all documents were signed by two staff members in line with the service's policy.

Accident and Incidents

The service had a policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service. The inspector reviewed copies of 10 accident and incident reports in the service. The documents reviewed were in line with the service policy and were signed by the parents of the children to confirm they had been informed of the incidents in the service.

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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 was a person trained in first aid responder course immediately available to the children. There were three staff trained in a first aid responder course which was adequate to cover the roster in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position to the staff on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool 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)

There was a record of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was carried out in May 2026.

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(1)(b)

There was a record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service which was last maintained in November 2025. The smoke alarms were last serviced in December 2025.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.