

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX015
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bri Beag Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Bree, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y21 Y447
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Bridie Galavan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/01/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	49	PM	23
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S Early O'Brien & C Ryan
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Bri Beag is a community early years service which is managed by a voluntary board of management. It is located in a rural village in a purpose-built premises beside a community centre. It operates from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and caters for children aged 0 to 6 years of age. The service can accommodate up to a maximum of 70 children. It offers a play-based curriculum and consists of four playrooms, two designated sleep rooms, sanitary accommodation, staff facilities, a kitchen and an office. A safe and secure outdoor play area is available which children have direct access to from the playrooms.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly with the children in the service and was not present during inspection. There are 21 staff employed in the service, and this includes the manager/person in charge, an administrator, a cleaner and Community Employment (CE) staff. On the day of inspection 16 staff were working directly with the children and there were 2 students onsite also. The designated person in charge is onsite daily and another named person is available to deputise as required. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2)

Regulation 20 Facilities for Rest and Play

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 (1) (a) (b) (4) and

Regulation 28 Insurance

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 22 Food and Drink. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 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, 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 manager was the designated person in charge and a named deputy was also available to deputise as required. The registered provider does not work in the service and was not present on the day of inspection.

(b)

The person in charge confirmed that they or their deputy are always present while the service is open.

(2)

Documentation was reviewed in respect of 21 staff employed to work in the service. This documentation met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b)

Two validated references were available for each staff member.

- (c)  
Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years in all cases.
- (d)  
Police vetting disclosures were available for two staff members who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.
- (4)  
Certificates of qualification for all staff members who work directly with children demonstrated that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Qualification Framework or equivalent.

## 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)  
Throughout the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children in the service and a review of the staff roster ensured breaks were covered appropriately. Additionally, there were two students on placement who were rostered as supernumerary in the rooms.
- (2)  
On the morning of inspection, the adult to child ratios were observed as follows:  
In the Butterfly room there were 19 children being cared for by 3 staff and all children were aged 3 to 4 years of age.  
In the Caterpillar room there were 18 children being cared for by 4 staff with all children aged 3 to 5 years of age.

In the Ladybird room (baby room) there were 5 babies being cared for by 2 staff with 1 child aged under 1 year and 4 children aged under 2 years of age.

In the Bumblebee Room (toddler room) there were 7 children being cared for by 3 staff with all children aged 1 to 2 years of age.

On the afternoon of inspection, ratios were observed as follows:

In the Butterfly room there were 12 children being cared for by 3 staff and all children were aged 3 to 5 years of age.

In the Ladybird room (baby room) there were 4 babies being cared for by 2 staff with all children aged under 2 years.

In the Bumblebee room (toddler room) there were 7 children being cared for by 3 staff with all children aged 1 to 2 years.

The manager was also available to assist when required.

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

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

*(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The indoor environment consisted of four care rooms with their own toilets, two sleep rooms, an office, a laundry room, staff sanitary accommodation and a kitchen. The care rooms were bright and warm with adequate space for the children. They were adequately laid out with interest areas accessible to the children.

Children had direct access from each room to an outdoor play area located to the side of the service which was suitable to the ages of the children. This space consisted of an all-weather surface and was well resourced with a variety of toys for the children to use such as ride-on toys, a sandpit, climbing frames and slides.

A second outdoor garden and play area was located to the rear of the premises. The area consisted of grass, climbing frames, a mud kitchen, water and sand play. Both areas were fully enclosed. The staff advised the inspectors that they facilitate daily outdoor play.

The outdoor area and the equipment and materials available provide appropriate learning opportunities for the children based on their age and stage of development. On the day of inspection, children were playing outdoors and were adequately dressed in warm jackets, hats and gloves.

(b)

The Ladybird Room (baby room) and Bumblebee Room (toddler room) had designated sleep rooms with cots suitable for babies and young children under two years in addition to sleep beds suitable for older children. In these rooms where children required sleep, all bedding and sleep bags were stored in individual labelled storage bags and changed as required for shared cots. Bedding was changed as appropriate and laundered weekly. Both rooms had a cosy/rest area within the room including a comfort chair in the baby room for staff to hold babies and young children.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

- In the Butterfly and Caterpillar rooms, rest areas were not sufficient to meet the needs of children over two years of age who attend for full day care. On the day of inspection, a child who showed signs of tiredness was trying to rest in the Butterfly room was observed lying on a wooden bench trying to rest while children engaged in play and activities in the room.
- In the Bumblebee room, sleep beds were not available to the children aged over two years of age who required sleep. A child was observed to be sleeping in the cosy area of the room and was not placed on a sleep bed suitable for their age.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

In the Bumblebee Room: sleep beds are available to the children aged over two years of age.

In the Butterfly Room/Full Day care: Sofas have been removed in one corner and the team have a plan to develop that area in a Danish 'hygge style'. A nice comfortable rug, fairy lights and plants are being sourced, the area will be surrounded with more natural materials like sea grass, wicker and timber elements.

The service will keep updating and upgrading all the classrooms.

## Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of the beds for children over two years of age.

## Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response to address the non-compliance.

## 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

Materials and equipment were available on low level shelving in all the care rooms. Children were observed to access the materials independently. Tables and chairs provided in the service were suitable for the age and stage of development of the children in each of the care rooms.

Sufficient materials were available and in reach for children. Additional resources and equipment were also available on higher level shelving and in cupboards in each of the care rooms. The children's daily routine was displayed in each of the rooms.

The play equipment and materials were observed to be durable and easy to clean. The presence of a family wall display and children's artwork in the care rooms demonstrated a sense of identity and belonging for the children.

### 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 has a healthy eating policy in place. Children’s meals and snacks were provided from home and perishable items were stored in a refrigerator in the kitchen. On the day of inspection, children’s lunches consisted of fruit, crackers, sandwiches, cheese, rice cakes and yogurt. Hot meals consisted of pasta, spaghetti Bolognese and cottage pie. Children were supported and encouraged to be independent in the Butterfly, Ladybird and Caterpillar rooms in self-feeding and getting own cup from cupboard. Support was promptly offered to those children who required assistance.

#### Non-Compliance Information

On the day of inspection water was not freely available to the children. In conversation with the staff, they advised that drinks are only available to the children at meal and snack times.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

Children have free access to their own water bottles at any time during the day. If they do not have a bottle, staff encourage the children to request a glass of water. When the children are playing outside, staff will bring the whole class to grab a drink and go back to play.

There are trolleys with a jug of water and cups available to children at all times. Also, children can access their own bottle of water at any time while in Brí Beag.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photograph of drinks trolleys in the room.

#### Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

### 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 entrance door leading into the service was appropriately secured with a buzzer system to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. Visitors to the premises were required to sign in on arrival to the premises.

The kitchen and storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were inaccessible to children.

Accident and incident reports reviewed were maintained in line with the service policy.

##### Infection Control:

Liquid soap, and paper towels were available to facilitate handwashing for both staff and children.

Lunch boxes that included perishable food items were stored in fridges in the kitchen in line with safe food guidance. Hand washing practices were observed after toileting and returning indoors from outdoor play time in the Butterfly and Caterpillar care rooms.

##### Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of anti-febrile medication and prescribed medication and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication if required during discussions with the inspectors.

There was a care plan in place for a child who may require an auto adrenaline injector. Staff within the room demonstrated a clear understanding of the location of this emergency medication, symptoms and procedure to be followed in the event of a medical emergency.

##### Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance, and they placed the younger children on their backs to sleep. Sleep logs were maintained in the sleep rooms and individual children's observations recorded the room temperature, breathing, colour and position every 10 minutes. These were logged on an app and shared with parents. Standard cots were provided for children under two years to sleep.

##### Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### **Infection Control:**

A number of practices observed were at variance with the infection control policy in the service and ineffective for infection control purposes as detailed below.

1. The nappy changing practices observed in the Ladybird and Bumblebee rooms were inadequate on the day of inspection to prevent the spread of infection and cross contamination as evidenced by the following:
  - Children's hands were not consistently washed after their nappy change.
  - Staff member's hands were not consistently washed after nappy changes.
  - Staff members were observed on a number of occasions during nappy changes to redress the child wearing the same used glove from the nappy change.
2. Mouthed toys were not removed for cleaning in the Ladybird room. Staff informed the inspector that the toys in this room are washed twice weekly. This poses a risk of cross contamination in the room.
3. In the Butterfly and Caterpillar rooms, the entrance doors to the sanitary area were propped open risking a spread of infection. Toilets were unflushed and children were not observed closely enough to ensure effective handwashing on return from play in the outdoor area before having their snacks. This posed a risk of spread of infection.
4. The small soft sofas in the care rooms were torn and posed as risk of cross infection as they could not be adequately cleaned.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective & Preventive Action**

#### **Infection Control:**

1. The nappy changing routine has been updated since the inspection and staff have been updated on the policy.
2. The mouthed toys policy has been emailed to staff.
3. The Butterfly and Caterpillar rooms will ensure doors to bathroom areas are kept closed. The staff members in each room will appropriately supervise children when using the facilities. The team are using the Safefood handwashing resources 'Rufus'.
4. Small sofa was removed, and a new rug will be bought with cushions and blankets to soften the 'quiet/hygge corner'. An upgrade of all the rooms is in process.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted:**

Photographs from the toilets and the updated policies.

## Summary Comment

The actions submitted are adequate to address the non-compliance.

## 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)  
Six staff members held appropriate First Aid Responder (FAR) certification, ensuring that a person trained in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times.

(2)(a)(b)  
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

## 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)

Records were available demonstrating that fire drills take place monthly. The last recorded fire drill was documented as having been carried out on 10 January 2025.

(b)

A record was maintained of when the fire detection system and smoke alarms were last serviced on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.

Firefighting equipment records were available demonstrating that these were last serviced on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous places throughout the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance which expires on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025 for a full day care service for 81 children.