

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX095
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Name of Service:	Paisti Beaga CLG
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Address of Service:	Grange, Broadway, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y35 X202
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Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Butler
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	14/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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).	
Conditions if applicable	Not applicable

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Description of service

Paisti Beaga CLG preschool is a community based early years service which is managed by a voluntary committee. The service offers part time care and can accommodate up to 22 children. The service is located in a purposely adapted premises for the sole use of the pre-school service. The service consists of a large playroom, kitchen, entrance lobby, afterschool room and sanitary accommodation. Outside is a large outdoor playground.

Staffing

There were a total of seven staff working in the service. The childcare manager is the designated person in charge daily and works directly with the children. The staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5, 6 and 8 qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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.

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

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

Regulation 11(1)(2) – Staffing Levels,

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Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b) -Facilities for Rest and Play,
Regulation 21 - Equipment and Materials,
Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
Regulation 25 – First Aid,
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety and
Regulation 28 – Insurance.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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 manager was the designated person in charge of the service on the inspector's arrival. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The files for seven staff working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. See Regulation 23.

(4)

There were certificates of qualification for the staff members working directly with the preschool children available on file.

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Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

The records available did not demonstrate that adequate consideration had been given to the suitability of staff prior to their employment. None of the 13 references on file had been validated and there was only one reference available for one of the staff.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were not on file for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff reference validations have now been recorded, and each staff member have two references in their file. The staff member without a Police vetting disclosure has applied for her police certificate, however, her employment with us has ended as from today, 30/01/2026.

Staff references will be validated, and record of validation will be kept in their staff files.

Extra care will be taken in future to ensure all staff are police vetted where relevant.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of validated references.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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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

(1)(2)

During the inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

During the morning there were 4 staff caring for 17 children.

During the afternoon there were 4 staff caring for 10 children.

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 playroom was large and decorated with both rooms bright, warm and inviting. The room was well equipped with definite areas of interest for the children, which offered them opportunities for large motor, fine motor development and the options for imaginative play in the home corner, construction area, garage and cars or the small world space and dolls.

The outdoor play area consisted of a large, enclosed area to the rear of the premises that was directly accessible via a pathway from the playroom. The area included a climbing frame, ride on toys, swing and slide, a sandpit and mud kitchen.

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Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The rest/quiet area in the playroom was inadequate and was not sufficient to meet the needs of the children. The area was cramped into a corner that was not conducive to rest.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The cushions and mats are washed weekly. The committee will plan to budget for a carpet area in and around our quiet area and our board of directors will add it to the agenda for our next financial meeting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of the rest/quiet area.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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 children were cared for in a large playroom. A smaller room at the end was available for smaller group work and one to one.

The room was equipped with low shelving, containers and baskets which allowed children to access toys and equipment independently. The room was resourced with furniture and equipment and areas of interest. The equipment, toys and materials available to the children were suitable for their age and stage of development. These included a construction area, reading areas, dolls house, home/kitchen, child sized tables and chairs, puzzles and activity trays.

Children's identity and belonging in each room were fostered with family photographs, birthday walls and personalised hooks to store their belongings.

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Children's artwork was displayed and there was evidence of a programme of care and daily routine. Children had a system of checking themselves into playschool and a rota for taking turns to be the daily helper at snack time.

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 playroom was appropriately secured via an electronic system to restrict entry to unauthorised persons. The outdoor play area was fully enclosed, and children were supervised while in the outdoor area.

Infection Control:

Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before eating, after messy play and after toileting. There were warm running water and liquid soap available throughout the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. There were Garda vetting disclosures on file for all staff members, however the vetting disclosure for one staff member was not dated within the previous 3 years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda vetting.

Infection Control:

2. There were no disposable hand towels available for hygienic handwashing. Communal cloth towels were used by the children and staff which posed as a risk of cross infection.
3. The second smaller first aid box was covered in mould which was a health risk.

Administration of Medication:

4. Prescribed medication stored on the premises for a child was out of date. A system was not in place by the service to ensure that medication was checked on a regular basis.
5. A parental consent form for the administration of medication was not available for two children.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The service submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective & Preventive Action:

1. The staff Garda vetting that needed to be renewed have been sent in for renewal. Staff Garda vetting will be renewed every 3 years. A record of date renewed will be kept on file to keep note of when renewal is needed.
2. Our hand towel delivery has been delivered, and the children and staff are using disposable hand towels for hand washing and drying. We will ensure the delivery comes on time going forward.
3. Our first-aid box has been cleaned and reorganised. Our travel first aid box that we use yearly for school tour. We will keep on top of our cleaning and first aid storage.
4. New EpiPens have been brought in by parents that are in date. Expiry dates have been recorded to ensure staff are aware of they need to be replaced. Dates will be checked regularly.
5. A parental consent form was signed which is attached to the child's EpiPen storage box and available on the day. A more detailed consent form was drawn up and parents have signed this.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of parental consent, new EpiPens, hand towels, first aid box and garda vetting disclosure.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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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

(2)(a)(b)

There was a large equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which were available to the children attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There were no staff trained in a first aid responder (FAR) course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service. There was evidence on file that two staff held in date Paediatric first aid, however they were not available to the children at all times.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The service submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective and Preventive Action

Staff members have been booked into a FAR training course, to be completed in March 2026. All preschool staff with valid first aid certificates are on display on the wall.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of booking confirmation of FAR training

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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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 fire fighting 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)

Fire drills were completed monthly. The last fire drill completed was recorded on the 16 December 2025.

(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in November and 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 service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had a valid certificate of insurance for part time care service for 22 children.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

Non-Compliance Information

There was a general lack of maintenance and cleaning within the service. For example:
Areas in the playroom required painting and walls needed treatment for dampness.
The cabinet designated for the safe storage of medication was cluttered and used for non-medical items.
Open low shelves in the playroom which were accessible to children were cluttered and mixed with items such as files and equipment not for the sole use by the children.
Blankets, mats and cushions in the rest area were not adequately clean.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The service submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective and Preventive Action

A finance meeting with our Board of Directors will take place in the coming weeks to discuss a budget for painting and treating our preschool room. We are also in the process of applying for a grant through the Dept of Rural and Community Development, to help us fund maintenance works in our building.
Our medicine cabinet has been cleaned and organised with only medical equipment.
Our shelves have also been organised. These shelves can quickly untidy as we about our very busy days.
Our quiet area mats and pillows are washed regularly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of quiet area and medicine cabinet.

Summary Comment

The response submitted was satisfactory.