

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DY003
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Name of Service:	Teanga Beo Baile Formaid
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Address of Service:	66 Convent Lawns, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D20 NY09
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Name of Registered Provider:	Hazel Norton
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	30/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	Linda Magee
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	N/A
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Description of service

This service is a community-based service located in an urban setting in Ballyfermot for children aged between 2-6 years. The service is registered to provide a part time service and two sessional services 9am-12midday and 12.30pm – 3.30 pm. Currently the service is operating a parttime service from 12 midday -2pm. The premises is a detached single story adapted community centre with two preschool rooms, a kitchen, an office and a sensory room. An outdoor area is located to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were 2 adults present on the day of inspection and they were both working directly with the children. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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 announced/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 plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

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

Regulation 11(1) & (2) Staffing Levels

Regulation 16(h)(j)(k) Record in relation to Pre-school Service
Regulation 19(1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child
Regulation 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child
Regulation 25 First Aid

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 inspector wishes 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

(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

(2)
Following a discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed no new staff had been employed since the last inspection on 13 September 2023. On completion of the last inspection, Regulation (2)(a) (b) (d) and (4) were compliant and therefore not assessed on this inspection. Therefore, the inspection of Regulation 9 was limited to the requirements detailed in 9(2)(c), this was inspected for all 5 adults employed in the service as evidenced below:

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all five adults who work in the service. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children when the inspector arrived unannounced at the service. There were 2 staff members working directly with 12 children.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service provided was always maintained.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(h) Details of the attendance of each child attending the service on the day of inspection was recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.

(j) The person in charge reported the service does not have any child on medication at present. Since the last inspection on 13 September 2023, medication was administered to two children. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

(k) A sample of eight accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

1(b) Breakfast is provided by the service for the children on arrival and dinner is provided for children who attend on a parttime basis. The children who attend a sessional service bring in a light lunch from home. The children were observed chatting happily while they ate their lunch. Staff encouraged children to be independent, developing each child's self-help skills. Children were supported with toileting if needed and staff were observed caring for children in a respectful manner during toileting. It was evident through observation that staff were very familiar with the needs of the children. Interactions with the children were warm and sensitive. Staff communicated with the children using soft and gentle tones and promptly comforted children when they became upset. Children wore waterproof suits and boots to keep them dry when playing in the outdoor play area. They moved freely outdoors and engaged in different games with the staff.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, the children were observed drinking fruit juices, crisps and eating dairy foods which had a high sugar content. This is not in keeping with the healthy eating policy in the service which promotes healthy eating among the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Snack Time:

Following the inspection, Teanga Beo has implemented immediate changes to ensure that only nutritious and suitable foods are provided to children in line with Regulation 22. From 13/10/2025, the service will provide sandwiches and fresh fruit daily for snack time. Snacks or lunchboxes from home will no longer be accepted to ensure consistency with our Healthy Eating Policy.

Only water and milk are now offered to children throughout the day.

A parent letter was issued on 10/10/2025 informing all families of these changes and the rationale behind them.

Dinner Time:

Teanga Beo are upgrading the main meal provision to enhance nutrition and variety. The service will now avail of Early Days Foods, an approved provider of healthy hot meals for early years settings. This initiative received Board approval in early November 2025, and are currently purchasing the necessary equipment to support safe storage and serving of meals

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation submitted was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation has been 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:

Both the entrance door and the side gate to the service were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The

cleaning agents and equipment were stored safely, out of reach of the children. Emergency exits were clear and the toys and play equipment used by the children on the day were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Staff supported children to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, and before lunch. The sanitary facility was equipped with warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and pedal operated bins. Completed cleaning schedules were in place demonstrating the daily and weekly procedures taken by the service.

Administration of Medication:

On the day of inspection, staff confirmed no children were on medication. Staff demonstrated, through discussion, that they were familiar with the procedures and practices in place for the administration of medication in line with the service's policy on medication administration.

Fire Safety:

Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire. Monthly fire drills were conducted in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. During the inspection, perishable items contained in the children's lunch boxes were not refrigerated prior to lunch time, posing the risk of gastrointestinal illness. The healthy eating policy in the service confirms lunches with perishable items are stored in the fridge as per food safety guidelines.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

Lunches from home are no longer accepted. All meals are now prepared and stored on-site to ensure correct handling of perishable items and full compliance with food safety and HACCP requirements.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation has been met.

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) A person trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR) was immediately available to the children at all times during the opening hours of the service on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was adequately stored and easily accessible in each care room in the service.

(b) A first aid box was always available to the adults and children in the service.