

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017GY503
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Name of Service:	Enfant Educare
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Address of Service:	Labane, Ardrahan, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91V009
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anna Moran, Susan Kennedy
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	17/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM	21
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Kelly
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

This privately run facility operates a full day care early years' service for children aged from 3 years to 6 years and a service for school aged children. The service is located in a rural village of Labane, Ardrahan, Co Galway. It consists of 2 large playrooms and 2 smaller rooms connected to these playrooms.

The children have access to an outdoor play area located at the rear of the building. The service operates from 7.30am to 6.15pm, Monday to Friday.

Staffing

There were 9 adults working in the service, which includes the 2 registered providers.

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 an unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

On inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 20. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) 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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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) One of the registered providers was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, one of the registered providers was on the premises.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there were 9 members of staff employed in the service.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) Of the 18 required written and appropriately validated references, 14 of these references were from the staff's most recent employers.

(b) Of the 18 required written and appropriately validated references, 4 of these references were reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every 3 years.

(d) Police Vetting disclosures was not required as no adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) All the adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the morning of the inspection, there were 34 pre-school children, attending the morning session and 21 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

(3) At 10.00 on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.

- Marvellous Minds , there were 3 adults caring for 17 children aged between 3 and 4 years of age.
- Budding blossoms, there was 2 adults caring for 17 children ages between 3 and 4 years of age.

At 14:00 on the day of inspection, the 2 playrooms were joined together and there were 3 staff members caring for 21 early years children.

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.

Compliance Information

- Children washed their hands before snack time and after outdoor play. The children had use of low-level hand washing sinks in the playroom which made it convenient for the children.

- Children had access to the outdoor space on a daily basis and the children were observed happily playing in the outdoor space on the day of inspection. Each group of children had time in the various areas throughout the day. The children appeared happy and content exploring the different areas of the space.
- The children’s sanitary areas were conveniently located adjacent to the playrooms. The staff were heard giving children little prompts when they picked up cues from the children that they may need to use the toilet.
- Children's drinks were available to the children throughout the day; the drinks were located on a low-level table in the playrooms. The children had access to their drinks throughout the session without having to ask staff members to assist them. A child in the Marvellous Minds playroom was observed handing out the children’s drink at lunch time.
- There were no behavioural management issues observed during the inspections, the staff present were observed to speak to the children in calm voices and interacted with the children in a positive manner.

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-

(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.

Non-Compliance Information

The rest facilities in the Marvellous Minds playroom were not suitable for the number of children attending this playroom and also the length of time the children spent in this room. On the day of inspection, 2 children were observed sitting and looking at books on the child sized sofa in the library area of this playroom, a third child tried to sit in the sofa as well and one of the children was pushed onto the floor as there was no space for a third child on this seat. On the day of inspection 21 children were attending the full day care service and were catered for in this room for period of time in excess of 5 hours. and there was no soft seating other than this small sofa for them to sit and relax on.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply

Corrective and Preventive Action

Additional seating, beanbags, and a large, comfortable rug were ordered to expand and enhance the space for the children. The rest area will provide a more inviting and functional space for children to relax and engage comfortably. Staff will engage with the children to gather their input and preferences, ensuring the space is both enjoyable and functional.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 15/10/25, the registered provider submitted 2 receipts for a range of items which included child sized sofa, rugs, bean bags and cushions.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted . The non compliance identified under regulation 9 have been adequately addressed.

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) Four staff had current paediatric First Aid Responder training completed. Two other staff have completed first aid for children. The first aid certificates were available for inspection.
- (2)(a) The registered provider had ensured that the service was equipped with a suitably first aid box.
- (b) The first aid boxes were available to children when required.

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) Written records of the fire drills undertaken in the service were kept by staff with the last fire drill Recorded as having been undertaken on the 02/09/2025.
- (b) A certificate of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and fire alarms was dated the 07/11/2024. was available for inspection.

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(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the playrooms.