

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017RN500
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	ABC Childcare
-------------------------	---------------

Address of Service:	Loch View, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
----------------------------	---------------------------------------------------

Eircode:	F42 YT26
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Collette Brennan
-------------------------------------	------------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date(s) of Inspection:	10/12/2025
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	44
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate TUSLA, Child and Family Agency Government Buildings, Convent Road Roscommon Co Roscommon
Inspection undertaken by:	A Kennedy
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

This ground floor service in two separate buildings is located in the town of Roscommon, Co. Roscommon. ABC Childcare offers a full day care service from 8.00hrs to 17.30hrs. An Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) programme is also offered. The service caters for pre-school children aged between 2 to 6 years of age. An afterschool service is also offered for school aged children.

A play-based child centre pedagogy focusing on emerging interests is offered. There are five playrooms namely the Junior toddler (for children aged 2 to 3 years)(not in operation on day of inspection),the Senior toddler room(for children aged 2-3 years),the Junior ECCE full day care room for children aged 2 to 3 years, the junior ECCE room for children aged 2 years 8 months to 3 years 6 months and the senior ECCE room for children aged 3-5 years. There are stackable beds providing the opportunity for children to sleep. The premises has its own kitchen, where meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. The children have access to outdoor play areas, for children's physical play activities, exploration, and fresh air.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. Thirteen staff work in the service. These staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. There is a designated chef who prepares, cooks, and serves the service meals. There is a staff member designated to general duties maintenance. A student was also in attendance on a college work placement.

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 Regulations 9,11,19,22,23,25,26 and 28 The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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, deputy 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,*

(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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site throughout the inspection.

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that 7 staff had commenced in service since last inspection.

Eight of the fifteen files were previously inspected on the 30th of May 2024. Therefore, for these eight files, only Garda Vetting and childcare qualifications were inspected.

(2)(a) &(b) Fourteen of the fourteen written validated references, on file for the seven staff were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of fifteen staff. Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. 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 three years.

(d) Seven of the staff had worked outside the jurisdiction, for six months or more, while over the age of 18 years of age and had the required police vetting. It was acknowledged that where applicable these vetting's were translated by a reputable source.

(4) Thirteen staff who were working directly with children, held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), at a Level 5 to 6, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of qualifications were on file for the thirteen staff.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that the adult child ratios were adhered to and adequate on the day of inspection.

(2) On the morning of the inspection, there were 43 pre-school children aged between 2 to 5 years.

12 children were aged 2 to 3 years,

31 children were aged 3 to 5 years.

There were eight staff directly caring for these children.

In the afternoon, there were 44 pre-school children aged between 2 to 5 years.

13 children were aged 2 to 3 years.

21 children were aged 3 to 5 years.

There were eight staff caring for these children.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were two staff on the premises while the pre-school was operating.

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

- Staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities to support children's health wellbeing and development within the service.
- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be as independent, as possible.
- Children did not have to wait for their meals and or snacks. The staff encouraged and supported the children to feed themselves independently according to their age and stage of development and the staff were available to assist if required.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.

- On the day of inspection, nine children wore nappies and were changed on a regular basis. The privacy and dignity of a child having their nappy changed was maintained.
- The older children had unrestricted access to the toilets and did not have to wait to use the toilet. The staff used the correct language surrounding toileting / nappy changing.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance. Play activities and experiences were developmentally appropriate and suitably challenging.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills for example the staff showed children how to wash hands properly, children's hands were washed before snacks and meals, after toileting and nappy changing, after blowing their nose, after messy and outdoor play.
- The children were observed playing house, building, playing with transport vehicles and at free play, playing at the construction bench with play accessories, at sensorial play and magnetic play. The children enjoyed linking, connecting, counting, at dress up and playing with dolls,
- At circle time, the children gave their news and stories. The staff used visual aids and probed with questions such as 'who is this?', 'how many are there?', 'where is that?' and 'tell me what this is?'.
- The children spent significant time in the outdoor areas to the rear and side of the premises. The children engaged in games, at messy play, riding push cars, tractors, running, chasing, and at pretend play.
- The children were observed practising their Christmas songs for the upcoming Christmas concert.

The staff supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by –

- having a key person system for each child,
- showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust,
- listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children's cues, gestures, and body language,
- using soft tones, the child's individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact,
- providing opportunities for individual and small group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging,
- providing opportunities for children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute to projects and tasks,
- working with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child's interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.

The outdoor environment provided children with activities and opportunities for

- fresh air, discovery, relaxing (e.g., quiet seating swing, digging sand area),
- releasing energy (e.g., playing chase),
- physical exercise and play (e.g., jumping, riding on push cars),
- exploring, engaging, and experimenting with nature (e.g., planting opportunities)

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

- There was a healthy eating policy. The person in charge advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by visual aids, and adherence with best practice guidelines.
- The children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner. The staff complied with the service's healthy eating policy. The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable for the children's ages and stage of development. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff. The service provided opportunities for the older children to pour drinks
- The staff sat with children during meal or snack times and encouraged good eating habits.
- The meals were provided by the service and prepared and cooked on site by the designated chef.
- Children attending full day care had the opportunity for two meals and two snacks. Where a child for any reason declined food, a healthy alternative was offered.
- Between 8.00hrs to 9.00hrs, the children had the opportunity for cereal, with milk.
- On the morning of the inspection, between 10.00 and 10.30hrs the children had fruit pieces and toast.
- The children attending on a sessional basis had their snacks provided by parents and guardians of sandwiches, fruit pieces, crackers, rice cakes, cheese, and yogurts.
- Between 12:00 and 12:30hrs, the children had a hot dinner which consisted of mincemeat mashed potato, sweet corn, peas and gravy.
- Between 14:30 to 15:00hrs, the children were offered spaghetti hoops and toast.
- At 16:00hrs the children were offered crackers, fruit and rice cakes.
- Cutlery and plates were offered for children's snack / mealtimes.
- Drinking water was accessible, at a low-level to children in each of the playrooms.

- There were designated fridges, for the safe storage of perishable foodstuffs from children's lunch boxes.

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 main entrance doors were secure to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The external play areas to the rear and side of the two premises were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- The doors into the kitchen, the laundry / storage area, the office, the staff toilet, and the designated staff room had a system of security.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- The step-up ladders used by children to access the nappy changing unit was suitable.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the playroom temperatures were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Blind cords were securely fastened thereby preventing any potential risk.
- Windows had restrictive access devices as a safety precaution.

Infection Control

- Children's hands were washed before snacks and meals, after toileting and nappy changing, after blowing their nose, after messy and outdoor play.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and in designated storage containers. The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled and stored within the nappy changing area. The nappy changing area had a leak-proof, sealable airtight container for the disposal of
- Nappy changing items were appropriately stored in lidded boxes. Only items required for nappy changing were stored in the nappy changing area.
- The nappy changing policy was displayed on the wall of the nappy changing area and staff completed nappy changing sheet records for each child requiring nappy change, with a section for staff comment / remedial action taken.

- A cleaning and disinfection schedule was presented and available for inspection. There were cleaning schedules and records for the playrooms, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas and on the cleaning and disinfection procedure undertaken in the service.
- The early years inspector observed that the tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playrooms. Disposable hand towels were appropriately stored in wall mounted dispensers
- Foot operated lidded pedalled bins were in use to prevent potential cross infection.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored inaccessible to the pre-school children and according to manufacturer's instructions.
- The staff were familiar with the medication administration policy of the service when medication needed to be administered.
- Medicines, creams, or ointments were kept out of reach of children and were stored separately in the first aid cabinets.

Safe Sleep:

- Stackable beds were available for children requiring sleep if required.
- On the day of inspection, six children from the senior toddler room were observed sleeping on the stackable beds.
- The early years inspectors observed, and documentary evidence indicated that the staff physically checked sleeping children every 10 minutes.
- The service kept documented sleep records. Records for sleeping children included the room temperature and the position, colour and breathing of the child
- A digital wall thermometer was available and used as the method of recording the room temperature and therefore taking remedial action when temperatures were above 20 °C and below 16 °C.
- A supply of clean linen was available for each child.
- Cellular blankets that allow air to circulate were used for sleeping children under 2 years of age.

Fire Safety:

- The service had evidence of monthly fire drills advising the date, time and number of staff and children.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety

1. There were sharp edges on the corners of two of the raised planting beds, posing a potential safety risk.
2. The goal post in the outdoor play area was not anchored, and the netting was ripped which could pose a potential safety risk.
3. A storage press containing cleaning products in the junior ECCE room was not secured and a cleaning spray was stored within child reach in the Junior ECCE full day care room posing a potential safety risk.
4. There were four wall mounted chalk boards in the outdoor area which were broken/cracked and could pose a potential safety risk.
5. A play washing machine and plastic sink from the play kitchen in the junior ECCE room were broken with sharp edges exposed which pose a potential risk of injury to a child. It is acknowledged these items were removed on the day of inspection. The door on the play kitchen in the junior ECCE room was not secure.
6. An electric cable in the hallway between the junior ECCE room and the senior ECCE room was not securely attached to the wall and could pose a potential safety concern.
7. There was a black cable on the artificial grassed area, posing a tripping hazard.
8. In the senior toddler room, a section of the roof on the doll's house was broken
9. A bag of coal was used to cover a drain in the outdoor area which could pose a potential safety concern.

Infection Control:

10. The water temperature taken from the hot tap was only 12.5°C in the junior ECCE full day care room.
11. A section of the child sized couch in the senior toddler room was ripped which could prove difficult to effectively clean.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider submitted a written response to advise

1. The planting beds have been rounded and they are sourcing covers to cover the planting areas
2. Specially purposed sandbags have been attached to the goalposts adding weight to prevent movement. Goal post nets have also been attached to the goals posts and made secure. Added goal posts to the outdoor risk assessment – sand level and nets to be checked during the outdoor assessment
3. Labels have been placed on presses containing cleaning products and door locks have been purchased and fitted to ensure they are inaccessible to the children at all times. Spoke with staff about the

importance of safe storage and dangers of cleaning products – memo also sent to all staff with reminder to keep cleaning presses locked and secure.

4. All chalkboards have been removed from the fences in the outdoor area.
5. The broken items have been removed, and the door of the play kitchen has been secured. Discussed with staff the need to remove broken toys in line with our health and safety policy – broken items need to be reported to manager and discarded of. Also included within staff memo
6. The electric cable in the hallway between the junior ECCE room and the senior ECCE room has been removed.
7. The black cable has been pulled onto the gravel area and covered over with stones. Cable/fence area added to outdoor risk assessment for continual checks to take place and ensure grass area free of debris
8. The section of roof on the dolls house in the senior toddler room has been repaired. Cleaning sheets adapted to include reporting of broken/damaged play materials to manager
9. A drain cover has been fitted to the downpipe and secured to the wall, the bag of stones have been removed.

Infection Control:

10. Temperature corrected at mains switch; water running at warmer and more appropriate temperature.
11. The couches have been repaired, and machine washable covers have been added to the couch also and this can be removed for cleaning. Cleaning sheets adapted to include reporting of broken/damaged materials to manager – checked weekly

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

The registered provider submitted photographic and documentary evidence o

1. The covered planting areas in the outdoor area.
2. Sandbags in place to secure the goalpost and newly fitted netting on the goalposts.
3. Locks fitted on the low-level presses and labels to remind staff to ensure the presses are secured at all times.
4. The wall mounted chalkboards removed from the fence in the outdoor area.
5. The washing machine removed and the door secured on the play kitchen in the junior ECCE room.
6. The removed electric cable in the hallway between the junior ECCE room and the senior ECCE room.
7. The black cable covered on the artificial grassed area.
8. The section of the roof on the dolls house repaired in the senior toddler room.

9. A drain cover fitted to the downpipe and secured to the wall.

Infection Control:

10. Evidence of the temperature adjusted on the thermostat

11. The couch repaired and the new cover fitted on the couch

Documentary evidence was submitted of the cleaning checklist and risk assessment to be completed by staff.

Memo to staff to remind them of ensuring cleaning products are stored out of child reach and all materials must be checked to ensure they are in good condition with no sharp/broken pieces.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on next inspection.

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) The service provided evidence that there were persons trained in first aid for children always available to the children attending the pre-school service. Three staff had current training in first aid for children.

(2)(a) There was a wall mounted first aid cabinet in each building which were safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid cabinets were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school 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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills with the last documented fire drill dated of the 17th of November 2025.

(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the annual servicing of the firefighting equipment was dated 6th of May 25 and for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 3rd of November 2025.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at the entrances to the pre-school for both buildings.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service's insurance was for a full day care service, catering for a maximum number of 79 pre-school children and 24 school aged children, with an expiry date for the 27th of March 2026 and included the following

- public liability
- fire and theft
- buildings
- outings undertaken as part of the service provision.