

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018CE502
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Name of Service:	Sunny Lane Crèche Westbury
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Address of Service:	Childcare Services, Westbury Centre, Corbally, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V94 WK2P
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Name of Registered Provider:	Natalie Quane
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection (Day 1):	29/10/2025
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Date of Inspection (Day 2):	30/10/2025
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No of pre-school children (Day 1):	AM	61	PM	61
No of pre-school children (Day 2):	AM	51	PM	51

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare.
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Inspection undertaken by:	A. McCarthy & J. Hayes
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Sunny Lane Crèche Westbury was established in 2018 as a purpose-built, privately owned, childcare service located in Westbury, Corbally, County Clare. The service provides full day, part-time and a sessional care, Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 17:15. The building accommodates seven care rooms, three sleep rooms, a sensory room, a kitchen, sanitary facilities and four outdoor play areas.

The six care rooms in operation included: Wobbler room one (age range: one to two years). Wobbler room two (age range: one to two years), Toddler room One (age range: one to two years), Toddler room Two (age range: one to four years), Junior Preschool room (age range: three to four years) and Senior Preschool room (age range: three to five years).

Staffing

Twenty adults are employed by the service. During the inspection fifteen adults supervised the children in attendance. An auxiliary person who prepares, cooks and serves the food was present on both days. A student on work placement was present on the 30 October 2025. The registered provider and two managers were available during the inspection, providing additional support in care rooms and administrative and managerial duties.

The adults working directly with the children held appropriate qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education and evidence on file for engagement in continuous professional development.

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 and safety. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b) (c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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 registered provider, the managers, 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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 registered provider was the person in charge, and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The manager and the assistant managers were available during the inspection.

(c)

A clear management structure was observed on inspection, identifying the lines of authority and accountability in the service. A noticeboard at the entrance to the service detailed the adults working in the service. The service identified specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2)
Twenty-one files were available in respect of the registered provider and the adults working in the service and the student. The findings included the following:

(a)
Thirty written and validated references from past employers in respect of adults working in the service were available.

(b)
Twelve written and validated references were available in respect of adults working in the service from a source other than a past employer.

(c)
Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the adults employed by the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)
International police vetting was available in respect of four adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.

(4)
The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1)

During the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.

(2)

The minimum ratios of adults supervising children was maintained on both days of inspection. On the 29 October 2025 fifteen adults supervised sixty-one children in attendance. On the 30 October 2025 fifteen adults supervised fifty-one children in attendance.

(8)(a)

The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available in the service at all times.

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

(1)(a)

The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment having regard to the age and developmental stage of the children. Six of the seven care rooms were in operation during the inspection.

Basic Needs of Children:

The adults treated the children in a respectful and caring manner. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions with the children. The adults praised and encouraged the children, conversed with the children at their level, used soft tones of voice, responded promptly to their cues for assistance and comfort. The adults demonstrated an awareness of the children's capabilities, interests and preferences. The children were encouraged to be independent in play and learning, whilst caring for their belongings, at mealtime and whilst using the toilet. The children in each room were offered a range of developmentally challenging play and learning activities. The adults supported the children's choice of individual and group engagement in activities.

The adults supervised and treated the children in a sensitive manner during nappy changes and toileting. Nappies were changed frequently and on an individual need's basis. The older children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care and prompted to wipe their noses at appropriate intervals, with boxes of tissues placed in accessible areas for the older children. The children's sleep was attended to in the three designated sleep areas, and activities were offered for children who did not wish to sleep.

The toddler children were encouraged to feed themselves and promoted to be independent. All children sat at tables in low-level chairs for mealtimes. The older children moved to the dining room for mealtimes. Appropriate crockery and feeding utensils were provided during mealtimes. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion. The food was prepared, cooked and served in the service by a cook. The option of breakfast was offered each morning to the children. At lunchtime children were served chicken curry, vegetables and rice on the 29 October. Children were served beef stew, vegetables and potatoes on the 30 October. Healthy snacks to include a variety of fruit, wraps and sandwiches were offered. Beverages of water were freely available to children in each room and during mealtime. Children's care and daily learnings were communicated with the parents/guardians in a positive manner as they collected their children from the service.

Physical and Material Environment:

The care rooms were bright, spacious and well-resourced and were laid out to enable the children to freely access the equipment and materials. The care rooms were laid out and designed with stimulating, challenging and interesting areas for children to play and learn. The rooms accommodating the younger children had a large range of soft floor coverings, activity units and soft play climbing blocks to facilitate floor play activities such as sitting, standing and crawling. The children were offered a range of developmentally challenging play and educational

activities. The rooms accommodating the older children were well planned and resourced with a variety of activity areas to ensure that children were provided with choice and options which supported individual and group play and emerging interests. Children were observed to be fully engaged in play and make smooth transitions between the activity areas. A quiet, sensory room with subdued lighting and soft textures was provided for children who wished to take time out from the large group activities.

The walls of the care rooms were displayed with individually designed learning aids and the children's individual artwork. Family photos were displayed on the walls in each room to support children's sense of belonging. A variety of opportunities for challenging play and learning activities were available in the indoor and outdoor environments with defined areas of interest. The care rooms were appropriately resourced with home and shop corners, art stations, sensory areas, pretend play wooden houses, wooden activity units and dress up areas. Seating with soft furnishings and mats with adjacent reading materials were used by the children to rest and relax. Low level shelving units were accessible to the children with a range of manipulative, sensory, imaginative and constructive toys and learning materials for the age and level of development of the children.

The outdoor play areas located to the front and side of the service were accessible directly from five of the seven preschool rooms. The play areas were enclosed and had an all-weather synthetic surface. The outdoor play area accommodated activity units, pretend playhouses, swings, slides, a wooden fire engine, a mud kitchen, wall mounted games, sensory play tables, a climbing frame, and a range of rocking toys, ride on vehicles and bicycles were available.

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:

- A ked coded, bell operated, and camera surveillance system was in place at the entrance door to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the service.
- The outdoor areas were secured with high level fencing and gates to protect the children within, and the children were supervised at all times during the inspection.
- A sign in book was available to record visitors entering the premises.

- The children's arrival and departure to and from the service was recorded in the record book.
- Medication and cleaning agents were stored in a secured storage areas that were inaccessible to children.
- The blind cords were appropriately secured on the windows throughout the service.
- A double handrail was provided to support the safety of children while using the stairs.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Completed cleaning schedules were available demonstrating measures taken by the adults to clean and maintain the service.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels, electronic hand dryers and lidded, lined pedal operated bins. Nappy changing areas were available, and a nappy changing procedure was clearly displayed on the wall close to the changing mats.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, using the toilet and before mealtime.
- The children's perishable food items were stored in the refrigerators throughout the service.
- The children's personal belongings, toiletries and bedlinen were stored in individual and clearly labelled containers.
- The soothers were stored in individually labelled containers, and an adequate method was available for sterilising equipment.

Administration of Medication:

- The adults demonstrated an awareness of the service's administration of medication policy and procedure.
- Documentation was available for the adults to record medication administered to the children in attendance.

Safe Sleep:

- The adults demonstrated an awareness of the service's safe sleep policy and procedure that were displayed in the designated sleep rooms.
- The children's sleep observations were recorded by the adults every ten minutes on written records. These observations included the children's colour, position and breathing.
- The three designated sleep rooms accommodated standard sized cots for the children to sleep. Low level beds with individual bedlinen were available for the children who required sleep. The adults remained in the sleep rooms while children slept.
- An electronic thermometer was available for the adults to measure and monitor the room temperatures.

Fire Safety:

- The adults held records of up-to-date fire safety training.
- The fire exit routes and passageways were clear from obstruction throughout the service.
- The fire exits routes and fire assembly points were readily identified with signage and known to the adults.
- The service demonstrated evidence of completing monthly fire drills to prepare the service to respond in the event of a fire.

Outing:

- An outing was not conducted on the day of inspection. An outings policy was available to inform parents/guardians and the adults working in the service of the service procedure for conducting outings.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Wipable covers were not provided on the mattresses in the standard sized cots in the sleep rooms. This posed a potential risk of cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The service has purchased new mattress protectors for all mattresses in the sleep rooms. All the mattresses now have these protectors on them. The service purchased 10 more protectors than needed so there is always some spare if needed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

Based on the corrective and preventive actions and supporting documentation the area of non-compliance under Regulation 23 Infection Control is resolved.

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)

Ten adults working in the service had a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training. The staff roster indicated that an adult with First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available in the service at all times.

(2)(a)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in the corridor outside the care rooms and in the dining room. The adults working in the service were familiar with the location of the first aid boxes. The service had a system in place for checking and restocking the first aid box. A checklist was available beside each box which indicated contents were restocked on 21 October 2025.

(b)

The first aid boxes were available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

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)

Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place on the 10 October 2025.

- (b)
Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place respectively in September 2025 and in August 2025.
- (4)
Fire action notices were displayed throughout the service demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for 100 children attending on a full day care basis. The insurance policy for the service is valid until the 27 March 2026.