

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2021MN001		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tru Beginnings Community Childcare Centre		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Drumbirn, Clara, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan		
<b>Eircode:</b>	H18 E365		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Patricia Markey		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/07/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM 12
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk Monaghan		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S Skinnader		
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Tru Beginnings Community Childcare Centre was established in August 2021 and is a community run childcare service. The service provides full day care, sessional and part-time care to pre-school children from 0 - 6 years of age. The service operates from 07:45 - 17:30 Monday - Friday. The service is situated in the grounds of the local national school. The Preschool Room is situated in the main school building. To the rear of the school there is a purpose - built cabin consisting of the Baby/Toddler Room with adjoining sleep room and sanitary accommodation. There is an Activity Area / sleep area and a kitchenette area. An outdoor play area is available to the back of the school. There is roadside parking for drop offs and pick-ups.

### Staffing

There are 10 staff including the person in charge and the registered provider who work in the service directly with the children. One adult is employed as cleaner.

### 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.

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.

### 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 service had a designated person in charge and a system in place to designate a named deputy person to deputise as required. The person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

There were 10 staff files presented for inspection.

(2)(a) & (b)

- There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for all 10 members of staff.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda vetting disclosure was available for all 10 staff members in the service and the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Following a review of the staff files presented on the day of inspection, international police vetting was available for the 5 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of greater than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that the 9 members of staff, who worked directly with the pre-school children had a minimum Level 5 childcare qualification.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) One of the international police vetting disclosures available for inspection did not have an accompanying English translation.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

(2)(d) Police Vetting form has been translated into English and placed in the staff file.

In future the manager will ensure that all Police Vetting certificates and staff documents are in the English language before they commence working in the service.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Translation of police vetting submitted

### Summary Comment

The Inspectorate accepted the registered provider's response and is satisfied that the non-compliance has been addressed.

## 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 there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service in the Preschool Room and Baby Toddler Room.

(2) When the inspector arrived unannounced to the service there were 2 rooms in operation i.e. the Preschool and Baby Toddler Rooms.

The following adult: child ratios were observed:

- Two staff in the Baby Toddler Room with 4 children aged 1 year and 7 months to 2 years and 5 months.
- Three staff in the Preschool Room with 10 children aged 3 - 5 years.

At approximately 12 midday another staff member arrived at the service with the dinner and stayed on the premises.

(8) On review of documentation the registered provider ensured that there are at least 2 adults on the premises 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

There were 2 rooms in operation on the day of inspection namely the Baby Toddler and Preschool Rooms.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service:

#### Basic needs:

- In both care rooms the children were observed to move freely and had a change of environment to the outdoor area in the morning and again in the afternoon. The children were dressed appropriately to go outside.
- The toilet trained children were encouraged to be independent with toileting and discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children in the various rooms after toileting, outdoor play and before meals.
- Attention was given to personal care such as nose blowing and cleaning faces.
- Morning snacks consisting of toast, cheese, fruit and drinks and were provided by the service. The hot dinner was also provided by the service and consisted of fish fingers, veg, potatoes and gravy. The service provided additional snacks and water for the afternoon.
- A child whose clothes got wet during outdoor play was assisted with changing their clothes.
- In the Baby Toddler Room all 4 children displayed signs of tiredness after returning in from outdoor play and as the dinner was being served. The staff saved the dinners and assisted the children with getting ready to go down to sleep.

### Supporting Relationships

- Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the staff and children in both the rooms for example *"thanks for your help everyone"*, *"loads of friends can play"* and *"..... is sad can you give them the bubbles?"*. The staff were observed sitting on the floor and at the tables with the children and to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner, thereby ensuring minor behavioural issues did not escalate .
- Staff reported most communication with parents as informal at drop-off and collection times. Emails were also sent and folders of work, pictures of activities and observations were sent home at the end of the year.

### Physical and Material Environment:

- Both care rooms were made up of areas which were extremely well resourced for the numbers attending. There were defined interest areas, somewhere to relax, plus toys and equipment available to promote and enhance sensory play and to develop fine motor skills.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

15(1)(a) – (j) There was no registration form or written record of information available for 1 of the children attending the Preschool Room. This was confirmed by the staff present.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

15 (1)(a) - (j) The registration form was requested on the evening of the inspection and received the following Monday morning.

The registered provider and manager will ensure no child commences attendance until the parent has returned the registration form.

#### Summary Comment

The Inspectorate accepts the registered provider's response and assurances. The non-compliance has been addressed.

## 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:*

*(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(i) There was no current staff rota available on the day of inspection. The rota present was dated March 2025 and a subsequent rota presented did not detail the times of the shifts the staff members were working.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

A new updated staff rota was put in place for the next working day following the inspection.

The registered provider and manager will ensure the rota is kept up to date and changed as required.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of rota.

#### Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting documentation. The non-compliance has been addressed.

## 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.*

*(2) A registered provider-*

*(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016,*

*shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(b) There was 1 cot room adjacent to Baby Toddler Room with 4 cots for the children under 2 years of age who required a sleep. Daybeds were available in the service and two were set up in the designated activity / sleep area for those children over the age of 2 years who required a sleep.

There were 2 floor mats on the floor in the Baby Toddler Room and in addition there was a large fabric covered armchair where one of the older children was observed to climb on it to rest.

A small plastic sofa, plastic mat and fabric covered cushions were available in the Preschool room where children can rest and relax. Four additional daybeds were also available in this room for a child to sleep on if required.

(2)(a) There was an outdoor area to the rear of the premises which was fully fenced and gated with an artificial grass surface. One area was partially covered. There were a variety of interest areas, ride on toys and the children were also facilitated by the staff to bring out toys from the care room to enhance their role play experiences.

## 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

It was observed that the registered provider has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service including:

#### General Safety:

- All emergency exits were clear and unobstructed.
- Cleaning equipment was stored out of reach of the children.
- Highchairs were in good condition and fitted with harnesses.

### Infection Control:

- There was a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and single use paper hand towels were available to support effective hand washing in the service with the exception of the non-compliance below.
- Effective hand washing practices were observed during the inspection, after toileting, nappy changing and outdoor play and prior to snack time.
- During each nappy change new gloves and aprons were used and the mat was cleaned between each nappy change.

### Safe Sleep:

- Ten-minute physical safe sleep observations were observed to be carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The television on the low-level shelf in the Preschool Room was unsecured and a potential impact hazard.
2. There was a hole in the ground along the back fence of the outdoor area which was a potential falls or trip risk.

#### Infection Control:

3. There was no hot water in the sink at the toilet off the activity area/sleep area in the cabin. This is an infection control risk and does not allow for effective hand washing.
4. The toilet off the activity area/sleep area in the cabin was used for the storage of the sand tray. This is a cross contamination and infection control risk.

#### Safe Sleep:

5. The service did not have an adult present at all times with children who were sleeping on daybeds in the converted activity area/sleep area in the cabin which is at variance with best safe sleep guidance.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The television was removed from the preschool room until it can be secured safely to the wall with an 'arm' at a safe height and out of the childrens' reach.

The manager along with the registered provider will ensure the safety of the children and staff by checking daily that all equipment is safe and if required removed from area or mounted properly to the wall to prevent impact hazards.

- The hole along the fence was repaired over the weekend following the inspection.

The registered provider and the manager will check weekly or as required that the outdoor area is safe and secure for children to play in.

### Infection Control:

- The registered provider now switches the water heater on for the toilet area each morning on arrival into the cabin.

The registered provider will ensure the water heater for the toilet area in the cabin is switched on each morning on arrival . The manager will also check this regularly.

- The sand tray was removed from toilet area immediately after inspection.

The manager will check regularly that is toilet area is free from equipment.

### Safe Sleep:

- The registered provider and all the toddler room staff are now aware that a staff member should be present at all times in the sleep room with the day bed occupants.

The registered provider will ensure a staff member is present at all times when children are sleeping in day beds. The manager will do regular checks.

### Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the registered provider's response and assurances that have been given to adequately address the non-compliances identified on inspection under Regulation 23. The non-compliances have been addressed and will be for review at the 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 registered provider ensured that there was a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children, on the premises at all times. Five FAR certificates were reviewed.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available to the preschool children.