

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022DL002
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Name of Service:	Ange's Angels Childcare and Afterschool
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Address of Service:	Tromaty, Quigley's Point, Co. Donegal
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Eircode:	F93 EK00
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Name of Registered Provider:	Angelina McLaughlin
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	19/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	23
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	K Folan
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

Angie's Angels Childcare and Afterschool service is a privately run early years' service located in Quigleys Point, Co. Donegal. The service is registered to provide full day care to children aged 0 to 6 years. The service is open from 07:45 to 17:45 from Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a community building. The ground floor of the building includes a wobbler room, sleep room, children and staff sanitary accommodation. A second preschool room is available upstairs to accommodate older children. Sanitary accommodation is located at first floor level. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is available at the back of the service. The other rooms in the building are separate from the service and include a community hall, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation and a cleaning storeroom. A separate community sessional early years' service is also provided in the same building with early years children moving over to the service inspected at 13:45 for childcare. A school age service is provided onsite.

Staffing

There are 12 adults employed in the service including the registered provider. On the day of the inspection eight adults were present, including the registered provider. Of the remaining four adults, two are available to provide cover in the event of staff absences and two work with school age children.

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

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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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23,25,26 and 29. 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 registered provider, 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.*

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(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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 named person in charge and a person available to deputise as required.

(1)(b)

A review of the staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or deputy person in charge were rostered to be on the premises during the hours of operation.

(1)(c)

The person in charge confirmed that there was a clear line of authority within the service.

Thirteen staff files were reviewed, and the following information was available:

(2)(a) Nineteen written and validated references were available from past employers for twelve of the adults.

(2)(b) Six written and validated references were available from reputable sources for five of the adults.

(2)(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(2)(d) International police vetting was available for one adult who had resided outside of the state for a period of six consecutive months or more as an adult.

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(4) Eleven adults had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

There was no reference on file for one adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

References were obtained.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

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)

On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.

(4) On the morning of the inspection the following ratios were observed:

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- In the wobbler room, 3 adults cared for 11 children aged 1 year and 2 months to 2 years and 9 months.
- In the preschool room, 2 adults cared for 6 children aged between 2 to 3 years of age.

In the afternoon:

- In the wobbler room, 3 adults cared for 13 children aged 1 year and 2 months to 2 years and 9 months.
- In the preschool room, 2 adults cared for 10 children aged between 3 to 5 years of age.

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, and

(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

Basic Need

- The service provides all meals and snacks to the children in part time and full day care. Breakfast and snacks are freshly prepared onsite. An outside catering company supplies the hot meal to the service. On the day of the inspection breakfast was cereal, toast was served at 10:00 and dinner at 12:00 was chilli con carne with rice. Afternoon snack at 15:30 was yogurts, crackers and raisins.
- Alternatives were available for children with food intolerances and allergies.
- Fresh drinking water was available to the children in each room throughout the day.
- Nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently when required.
- In the wobbler room, children were placed for sleep according to their own needs and schedule.
- On the day of the inspection, children in all groups had access to the outdoor area.
- Suitable warm and waterproof clothing was available for children playing outdoors.
- Staff were attentive to the children's care needs, providing support with feeding, dressing and hygiene needs.

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Supporting relationships

- The service has a key worker system in place with each staff member assigned a group of children to form close relationships with.
- Staff informed the inspector that communication with parents takes place at drop off and pick up times. A software application is used to share pictures and information in relation to the childrens wellbeing and development.
- The staff spoke kindly to the children and at various intervals throughout the day, sat with the children during activities and engaged in social conversation.
- There was evidence of teamwork among the staff team, with staff collaborating throughout the day in relation to the children's needs and activities.

Physical and material environment

In the preschool room the walls were decorated with pictures of children's artwork and educational posters promoting language development. The room contained ample resources to cater to a child's development. The room was organised into interest areas such as a construction area, fine motor area, dress up, home corner and a sensory play area with modelling dough.

In the wobbler room, a climbing frame promoted children's gross motor development and provided younger children a safe opportunity to crawl, climb and pull to stand. The room contained small world play experiences such as an ice cream cart, a farm with animals and vehicles. A small tent, dress up items and a selection of dolls were available. Interest boards to promote fine motor development were placed on the wall at children's level. A soft sofa was available in a separate area of the room for children to have rest if required.

The outdoor area contained a covered sheltered area for use all year around. The children were observed enjoying pouring water from a water tray into long pipes positioned on the wall and catching the water at the end of the pipes. A mud kitchen, climbing frames, swings and slide of varying sizes were available to the children.

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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 was found to be secured on arrival preventing unauthorised access or exit from the Premises.
- Materials and equipment were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°Celsius in each of the sanitary areas.
- The outdoor areas were secured with tall fencing and a restricted entry gate.
- Radiator surface temperatures were below 50° Celcius.
- The air temperatures in each care room were within the required range of 18-22° Celcius.
- Children with allergies were identified by the service with alternative food items available.
- Cleaning materials were safely stored out of children's reach.
- Handrails were provided on stairways both indoors and outdoors.
- Children's medicines were safely stored, out of children's reach.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Staff were observed to remind children to wash their hands after using the toilet and before mealtimes. A visual task analysis for handwashing was on display at each sink.
- Children's hands were washed after nappy changing.
- Cleaning schedules were up to date and available to review.
- The sanitary facilities were ventilated by mechanical ventilation and open windows. Each care room had windows open for ventilation.
- Gloves and aprons were available and worn by the staff during nappy changes.
- Individual ben linen for each child was available and stored separately.

Administration of Medication:

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- No medicine was administered on the day of inspection; however, staff advised the inspector of the correct procedure to be followed in the event of a child requiring medicine.
- Records of previously administered medication were available for review, and the correct details were recorded.
- Care plans were available for children who at times required medicine.

Safe Sleep:

- Cots were available for all children under the age of two years of age.
- Children over the age of two years slept on floor mats and low-level beds.
- Physical sleep checks were carried out every 10 minutes on sleeping children.
- Sleep records were correctly maintained with the child's name, sleep position, breathing pattern and skin colour recorded.
- The temperature in the sleep room was monitored to ensure it was within the correct range of 16-20° Celsius.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation doors were unobstructed throughout the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- In the wobbler room, trailing flexes from electrical items posed a risk to children's safety.

Infection Control:

- In the wobbler room, a swing top bin was present for the disposal of waste posing a risk of cross infection.
- In the preschool sanitary accommodation, the bin was not a foot operated pedal bin as required.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The flexes were secured.

Infection Control:

Both bins have been replaced and only foot operated pedal bins will be used in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

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General Safety:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

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)
Seven adults were trained First Aid Responders (FAR) in the service and at least one adult was available to the children at all times during the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two suitably equipped first aid boxes available in the service, one in each care room. The first aid boxes were stored in an easily accessible position.

Part VI - Safety

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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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (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) (b) Records were available to evidence that the firefighting equipment was last serviced in November 2025 and smoke alarms were serviced on 27 April 2026.
- (2)(c) The registered provider ensured the records were available for inspection.
- (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A record of fire drills was kept by the service with the most recent drill carried out on 21 January 2026. Previous to this, a fire drill was carried out on 19 November 2025. Fire drills should be carried out monthly to ensure children are familiar with evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A fire drill was carried out after the inspection and will be carried out monthly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

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The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a) The premises appeared to be sound and stable structure. There were no observable indications of defects in the structure of the premises. The registered provider confirmed she was not aware of any defects to the building.
- (b) The premises was safe and secure. All entry and exit doors were secured to prevent children leaving the premises unsupervised.
- (c) There were adequate lighting and ventilation in all areas of the premises.
- (d) All areas were clean, well maintained and all play materials and equipment were in a proper state of repair. Detailed cleaning schedules for the premises were available in both of the care rooms.
- (e) There were adequate sanitary facilities provided suitable for the needs of the children attending.