

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022DL002
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Ange's Angels Childcare and Afterschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Tromaty, Quigley's Point, Co. Donegal
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<b>Eircode:</b>	F93 EK00
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Angelina McLaughlin
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	03/05/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	16
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate. Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Ann Spain
<b>Title:</b>	Registration Support Manager

### 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

Angie’s Angels Childcare and Afterschool service is a privately run full day care service caring for children since September 2022. While the service is registered to care for children aged 0-6 years it is currently accommodating children from 1 to 6 years. The service is operational between the hours of 7.45am and 5.45pm. The service is located in a community building in Quigleys Point village, North Donegal. The ground floor of the building includes a baby room, sleep room, children and staff sanitary accommodation. A second playroom is to accommodate older children. Sanitary accommodation is located at first floor level. An outdoor play area is available at the back of the service and off the road parking is provided at the front of the premises.

The other rooms in the building and separate from the service 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 1.45 pm for childcare. A school age service is provided between the hours of 2.15 and 5.45pm.

### Staffing

The service is staffed currently by six adults which includes the registered provider. Qualifications in childcare vary from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) level 5 to level 8. All staff are working in the service since opened in 2022.

### 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 announced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 Management and recruitment, 11 Staffing levels, 19 Health, welfare and development of child, 22 Food and drink, 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of children, 25 First aid and 28 Insurance.

The scope of the inspection included all rooms in the service.

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, 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, 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 service had both a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) Both the designated person in charge and the named person to deputise as required were working in the service on the day of inspection. The staff roster for the service confirmed that both staff members worked daily in the service.

(c) The service had a clear management structure with dedicated staff members rostered to work in their assigned rooms daily.

(2)(a) References from past employers were available in respect of four staff working in the service.

(b) Subsequent to the inspection validated references from sources other than past employers were submitted for the remaining staff members in the service.

(c) A vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau was held on file in respect of the registered provider and the five other staff members. It was observed that garda vetting was conducted in March 2022 in the case of one staff member, in May 2022 in the case of three staff, in October 2022 in the case of one staff member and in May 2023 in the case of the remaining staff member.

(d) Police clearance was not required as none of the staff in the service had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as adults.

(4) All staff working with the children had certification to confirm childcare qualifications at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) levels 8 in the case of three staff, level 6 in the case of two staff and level 5 in the case of one staff member.

### 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) An adequate number of staff were available to work with the children in both the “baby room” at ground floor level in the service and the second room known as the “big room” at 1.45 pm subsequent to arrival of early years children from the community early years’ service in the same building.

(2) Three staff members cared for a total of 13 early years children in the age range 1 to 3 years in the “baby room” in the service who were present for full day care. It was observed that the maximum number of children on the service register for attendance in the room was 15 children. Two staff members cared for five preschool children present after 1.45pm and in the age range 3 to 6 years in the second room at first floor level. It was observed that the maximum number of children recorded in the service register as in attendance in the room was 7 early years children in the age range 3 to 6 years with two staff members present 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, and

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that no corporal punishment is inflicted on a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic needs.

Sanitary accommodation for the children at ground floor and first floor level comprised of two toilets, two wash hand basins and a nappy changing unit. Nappies and individual labelled creams were stored on a unit within easy reach of the nappy changing station. Staff in the ground floor playroom were observed to take children in small groups to wash their hands prior to break time in the service and on return from outdoor play for dinner in the playroom. Children at first floor level were observed to use the toilet and wash their hands under supervision by staff.

A rest area comprising of two low level couches was provided in the baby room. Five cots were provided in the adjoining sleep room to allow children rest and sleep as required. Labelled containers stored on a shelf in the sleep room provided a suitable area to store individual sheets and cellular blankets in use in the sleep room.

A rest area comprising of a full-size couch, soft cushions and a soft floor mat was provided in the spacious playroom at first floor level.

Children in the baby room were observed to avail of outdoor play in a group while other children played indoors and children requiring sleep were facilitated in the sleep room as the needs for rest and play arose in the service.

Children returning from outdoor play at 12.30pm were assisted to remove outdoor rain gear and boots as provided by parents and guardians.

Break and meals times in the service were relaxed with children afforded adequate time to enjoy their food without been rushed. Children in the baby room were observed to move to the book area to read books with a staff member while other children finished dinner at their individual pace. Children in the big room were observed to be given time to feed themselves independently with staff offering assistance as required and engaging in conversation with the children offering them opportunities to talk about home and what activity to partake in next in the service. A choice of spaghetti bolognese and stew was offered to children on the day of inspection.

It was observed that extra pasta was offered to the children in the baby room. Both milk and water to drink was provided in both play rooms in the service.

### **Physical and material environment.**

Both playrooms in the service were brightly painted and provided with low level shelves to allow children access toys and play equipment of their choice. The children in both rooms availed of outdoor play on the day of inspection. Children in the baby room were observed to move freely from the outdoor play area to the playroom to avail of play both indoors and outdoors on request and under supervision. The outdoor play area was safely and securely fenced in by timber fencing and the back wall of the building to guard against unauthorised access to the children outdoors. The back door to the service allowed access from both playrooms to the outdoor play area. An open timber shelter with a perspex roof provided a suitable area for outdoor play during inclement weather conditions. Toys on wheels, tyres to encourage balancing activities and a sand box were located on a concrete surfaced area outdoors. The outdoor tap facilitated water play with pots, pans and pouring containers provided by the service. A play house, climbing tunnel and a balancing stand was provided for further physical play and movement. The concrete low level wall in the water area was brightly painted with grass and leaf murals and offered a welcoming area to play in.

The playrooms were well resourced with play equipment for both table top and floor activities. Animals, interlocking and connecting toys, puzzles, games and jigsaws were available in both rooms. Construction areas housed blocks and bricks of different sizes, dimensions and textures. Home corners were provided with dolls houses, cooking equipment, food and utensils for pretend play. A supply of arts and crafts materials including paint, paper, paint brushes, colours, pencils and shapes were provided and children's art work was on display in the service. Children in the second playroom enjoyed using paint and paper to paint roads to drive small toys on wheels on during the course of the inspection. Books appropriate for all age groups were provided in both playrooms and were located within easy reach on open shelving in rest areas.

Windows were provided in all rooms with the exception of the sleep room which was mechanically ventilated to ensure a good flow of fresh air directly from outside and natural day light in the rooms in use by the children.

### **Supporting relationships around children.**

Childcare staff were observed to be kind and caring and children relaxed in their company. The staff were observed to play with the children outdoors in the water area and to offer assistance on the slide and the toys on wheels as required and requested. A staff member was observed sitting on the all-weather surface with a child outdoors and engaging in conversation with the child while playing. Children were also praised for cooking dinner in the mud kitchen area and for safely sliding down the slide provided. A child in the baby room was praised for handing out beakers with drinks at dinner time. Children were praised for sharing toys outdoors, finishing dinner indoors and for both washing and drying their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Staff assisted children to fill water into containers for messy play outdoors as requested. Staff were observed to engage in conversation with the children as they moved to different areas of the outdoor play taking cues from the children's preferences for play activities. Pictures of children and family members were located on a family wall in the playrooms.

Moving from outdoors to the playrooms was well signalled to the children in advance to afford children time to finish activities and to prepare themselves for both meal times and the next activities planned for the children. A daily diary for each child was maintained by key staff members to record activities children engaged in, sleep patterns, feeding, toileting and to record observations on their likes and dislikes. The diary offered a two way communication between the childcare staff and parents and guardians of children in attendance. An electronic communications application was also available to communicate with parents and guardians on activities the children participated in and enjoyed. A "learning story " was also maintained in the service to communicate to parents and guardians monthly on activities partaken in by children.

## 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

The service provided a breakfast consisting of cereals and toast between 8.30 and 9.00am. Morning snack comprising of toast and fruit was also provided directly by the service. Both midday dinner and teas were contracted to an outside cater and delivered daily to the service. The meals in the service varied daily with two dinner options reheated and served at 12.30 in the baby room and at 3pm in the playroom on the first floor. The evening meal delivered on the day of inspection comprised of jam, ham and cheese sandwiches, pancakes, sausage rolls and croissants. Yogurts and fruit were also delivered daily for meal and snack times.

A stand up refrigerator was provided in the baby room to store perishable foods and snacks. Plates, cutlery and beakers for drinks of milk and water were used on the day of inspection to serve childrens meals and snacks. A sink with a hot and cold water supply was available in the baby room to assist with wash up after meal times. High chairs with safety straps were provided to feed young children in the service. A refrigerator was also provided in the upstairs playroom to store perishable snacks and alternative foods for children in the room. Beans, cheese, yogurts and pasta were held in storage on the day of inspection.

### 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:

Entrance to the service was secured and a bell provided to facilitate unauthorised access and both early and late drop off and collection of children. The glass panel doors at the front of the service allowed easy visibility off all approaching the service. A high level timber fence and timber gate was provided on the open gable end of the premises to guard against unauthorised access to both the back of the premises and the outdoor play area from the car park.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

Toys and books were stored in open containers on the floor in the sleep room posing a trip hazard to both children cared for in the room and staff caring for and monitoring sleeping children. A bag of garden compost was also stored on the floor in the sleep room which posed a trip hazard and was removed on the day of inspection.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

The registered provider confirmed in the response to the inspection report as received on the 31 May 2023 that all books and toys have been removed from the sleep room. It was also advised that a separate storeroom has been secured at the bottom of the stairs in the premises.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

Written confirmation was submitted to confirm that the above measures have been taken to ensure that the sleep room in the service was not used for storage purposes.

#### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the submission as received from the registered provider. The non-compliance identified under regulation 23 has been adequately addressed

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 25 - First aid

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*

*(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*

*(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

### Compliance Information

(1) Five adults working in the service had up to date first aid responder training with expiry dates in August 2023 in the case of one staff member, October 2024 in the case of one staff member, November 2024 in the case of two staff members and December 2024 in the case of one staff member.

(2)(a)(b) A first aid box was located at high level in the nappy changing area in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

Insurance cover was available in the service for a total of 34 children in daily attendance in a full day care service. Insurance was valid from 28 March 2023 to 27 March 2024.