

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022KE001
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Name of Service:	Bright Beginnings Brownstown
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Address of Service:	Brownstown Manor, Brownstown, Curragh, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	R56 HX09
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Name of Registered Provider:	Audrey Lynch
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	45	PM	34
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 2, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 E6H2
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty and S Quigley
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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).

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Description of service

Bright Beginnings Brownstown is a privately owned full day care service and is one of three services operated by the registered provider. The service is located in Brownstown, Curragh, Co Kildare. Care and education are provided to children aged between one and six years and the operating hours are from Monday to Friday between 7.00am and 6.30pm. An Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme sessional service is provided from 9.00am to 12.00pm, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service operates from a purpose-built property which comprises of four care rooms and associated sanitary accommodation, an office, kitchen and a staff room. The children have access to an outdoor area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs thirteen staff members including a cook and the centre manager. Ten adults were present on the day of inspection including two staff who arrived following the inspectors arrival from another branch and the area manager who arrived for the closing meeting. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.

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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child, safety and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 –Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels.

Regulation 15 – Record of a preschool child.

Regulation 19 – Health, Welfare and Development of the Child.

Regulation 23 – Safety.

Regulation 29 – Premises and Facilities

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15, record of a preschool child.

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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN1762	14/05/2026	No certified translated international Police Vetting available for a staff member.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following service of the notice and the provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the Inspectorate.	

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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.*

(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)(b)

The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were on the premises throughout the inspection.

The inspection focused on the recruitment records for seven adults employed since the last inspection on 6th March 2025. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults who were present and met regulatory requirements as follows:

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(a)(b)

Of the 14 validated, written references that were required, 12 were available from a past employer and two were available from a reputable source.

(c)

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

(d)

Police vetting was required and was available for two staff members who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4)

Records were available evidencing that the six staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IAN1762 served.

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

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Compliance Information

- (1)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2)
The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services were adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 45 children attending the service being supervised by ten adults on the day of inspection.
- (8)(a)
There were at least two adults on the premises at all times

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.*

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Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of 12 records of preschool children maintained in the service were reviewed by the inspectors to assess compliance. The documentation reviewed evidenced that each of the records detailed all of the required information outlined under Regulation 15(1) (a) to (i) detailed above.

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The registered provider ensured that children's learning, development and wellbeing were facilitated in the service through the provision of the following practices.

The children in Rooms 220, 219 and 206 were observed to eat food provided from home for their morning snack sitting in groups at tables. A warm meal of sausages, mashed potato and beans was provided by the service at dinnertime in addition to an afternoon snack. The children were supervised and assisted when required by the staff when eating who encouraged the children to chat and eat at their own pace without being rushed. Drink stations were set up in the playrooms at low levels with children's individual bottles which were available to them at all times.

Nappy changing was carried out when required and staff were observed to use this time for warm one to one interaction with the children, supporting their sense of security. There were a number of children who were toilet training, these children were supported by the staff to use the toilet independently, encouragement and support was given needed.

Children were provided with opportunities to develop their self-care skills for example, tidying up following play, using the toilet independently, and washing their hands routinely. Transitions to and from sleep were calm, with staff using soft tones to provide comfort and reassurance to children. The children were provided with an opportunity to sleep after dinner. They slept in low beds appropriate to their age and stage of development. The children were made comfortable for sleep with their outer clothing and shoes removed and soothers given to

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those who used them. Rest areas were available in all care rooms, allowing children to take a break from activities if required.

The care rooms were suitably resourced with a variety of equipment and materials which were all arranged on low level shelving units, facilitating the children's choice of play. These included home areas, libraries, construction materials, small world, puzzles, sensory play including play dough. The walls were covered in the children's artwork and included family photos which supported a sense of identity and belonging. The children moved freely within the rooms, engaging in free play and activities. Transitions between care routines and activities were well managed with staff explaining to the children what was going to happen next.

The outdoor area was separated into three separate areas and provided an alternative environment for children which included, ride on toys, climbing equipment, a mud kitchen and digging areas.

Staff were affectionate and respectful in their interactions with the children. They used the children's names, provided praise and encouragement, and dropped to their level when engaging in conversations.

On the day of inspection there was a birthday in Room 219 children sang happy birthday and ate cake, this activity helps develop social bonds and encourages children to build friendships.

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 entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- Cleaning agents and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, nappy changing and before meals.

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- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers and mouthed toys.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly or as required.

Administration of Medication:

- There was a documented care plan available for one child attending the service who required emergency medication. Staff working in the room with the child were aware of the treatment plan and demonstrated knowledge of the procedures to follow if the medication was required.
- Staff demonstrated, through discussion, that they were familiar with the procedures and practices in place for the administration of medication in line with the services policy on medication administration.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.
- An adult remained in the room at all times where children were sleeping on low beds.
- The sleep room temperatures were maintained within the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

- All fire exits were clear of obstruction.
- Regular fire drills took place in the service, staff stated that they occur monthly

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Areas of the impact absorbing surfacing in the main garden had three large holes present posing a trip hazard to the children attending.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The garden equipment has been rearranged and a mat placed over the affected area as a temporary measure until it is replaced. We will ensure all maintenance issues are recorded on the outdoor risk assessment sheet.

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A new check has been added to the outdoor risk assessment sheet - "Ensure impact absorbing surfacing in main garden is in good condition and free from any holes".

All staff and management have been refreshed on ensuring that all maintenance issues are reported ASAP.

The affected surface will be replaced Summer 2026.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photos of the temporary measure.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required,

Compliance Information

(d)

The flooring in Room 220 was reviewed. Following the last inspection the flooring has been replaced and is in a good state of repair.