

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022WH002
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Child's Play ABA Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 6 Oak House, Riverview, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath
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<b>Eircode:</b>	N91 H5X9
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Carole McGuinness
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/02/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	22	PM	20
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, SAP Office, St. Loman's Campus, Mullingar, Co Westmeath
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. O'Connor Hughes
<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

This service operates as a full day care service, providing part time and Early Childhood Care and Education places to children. The service opens from 08:00 to 17:30 on a Monday to Friday basis.

The ground floor premises consists of free playing areas namely the investigators, the adventurers and autism area with a sensory room, a soft playroom and sleep room, a staff kitchen, a reception area, a main kitchen, an office and sanitary accommodation. An indoor/outdoor area is attached to the side of the premises. On-site parking and set down facilities are available. The service is located in Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs twenty-three adults in the service. The designated person in charge and seven adults were working directly with children. A cook and cleaner are employed in the service. The registered provider attended the closing meeting.

### 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.

Regulation 8- Change in Circumstance

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

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

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

Regulation 20 – Facilities for Rest and play

Regulation 21- Equipment and Materials

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 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 II - Registration and Register

#### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
The registered provider submitted a change in circumstance in respect of a change to the designated person in charge. This change was approved by the Tusla registration office on the 12 June 2025.

### 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)

The person in charge was available in the service.

(b)

The registered provider and designated person in charge were present for the duration of the inspection.

Twenty-four staff files including the file of the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a previous employer in respect of the staff members. Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the twenty-four staff files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was available in respect of four adults who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

Staff members working directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at levels 5 to 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a letter of eligibility to practice.

## 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)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

(2)

There were twenty-two children attending the service supervised directly by seventeen adults in the morning. There were twenty children present in the afternoon supervised by fourteen adults.

(8)(a)

The staff roster reviewed indicated that two adults are on the premises during the hours of operation.

## 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)

Children were engaged and enjoyed play activities in the indoor environment that included free play, story time and creative play supported by staff members. One to one support and supervision was observed for children requiring extra assistance. The ECCE children were observed to be dressed appropriately in high vis jackets to go on an outing to the local biodiversity garden accompanied by the staff members. Children enjoyed freedom of movement as they played in the multiple play areas in the indoor environment.

Good communication was observed between the staff member and child during nappy changing. Regular nappy changes were carried out for children attending the wobbler area. Older children were observed to use the toilet independently and wash their hands.

Parents /guardians provided a healthy lunch for children attending the service. A menu plan was available for review. An outside catering company provided the main meals for the service. At 13:00 children attending on a full day care basis were served a lunch of pitta bread, cheese, vegetables and fruit by the cook. Water and milk were offered as drinks to children. Bowls of fruit were available for self-service in each pre-school area. A little helper system was in place as children handed lunches to their peers in the pre-school area.

The staff were positive towards children and were familiar with each child, their personalities and their daily routines. Children were happy and content with their carers in the various pre-school areas. Staff used children's individual names, maintained eye contact and conversed with the children during play activities, when using the toilet and at mealtimes. Positive praise was given to children regularly during the inspection. Behaviour issues were handled in a calm and caring manner by the staff member. Individual education plans and goals were available for children that required extra support and assistance in the service.

A range of developmentally appropriate experiences to meet children’s learning needs was available in the pre-school areas. Age and stage appropriate toys and materials were accessible to children on low level shelving. Children were observed to enjoy story time in the cosy rest area in the pre-school area.

The service works in partnership with parents and guardians. Parents were observed to collect their children from the pre-school service after the ECCE session concluded. A verbal handover was provided to parents at this time. One to one meetings are held with the service and parents as required.

### 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-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(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.*

*(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-*

*(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises,*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Suitable play equipment was provided indoors which included toys and equipment for construction, tabletop activities, arts and crafts and home corners. Play equipment included musical instruments, sensory toys and a trampoline for therapeutic purposes in the village area. A ball pool, swing and soft play mats were available to children.

(b)

A separate sleep room was provided for the children to sleep and rest. Sleep beds were provided for the individual children attending the service. Cosy rest areas and soft furnishings were provided for children.

(3)(a)

The indoor/outdoor room and small play area was safe and secure surrounded by wooden fencing. Higher fencing was erected around the wooden fencing since the last inspection on the 28 March 2024. A synthetic surface area was noted. Toys and equipment included a toy kitchen, climbing frame with slide, planters and bus scoile.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The tables and chairs were child sized suitable to each child's age and development. Specialised chairs were available for children requiring same. Equipment was well maintained, durable and easy to clean. Materials including Montessori equipment were accessible to children on low level open shelving. A variety of suitable play materials and equipment was available to support children in various types of creative, manipulative, sensory, imaginary and free play in the indoor environment in the service. Personal belongings and bags were stored individually for each child.

### 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 to the service was secure. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents. The inspector signed the visitors book on arrival.

##### Infection Control:

Warm water, paper hand towel and liquid soap was available in the sanitary accommodation. Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks and after using the toilet. The nappy changing practice observed was carried out as per the services' nappy changing procedure.

Respiratory etiquette was observed as staff cleaned children's noses and washed their hands after wiping.

Children's lunches were stored correctly in the refrigerator in the kitchen.

### Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available if a child presented with a high temperature. Medication was stored safely in the reception area inaccessible to children. Health care plans were in place for children with a defined medical condition attending the service.

### Safe Sleep:

The sleep room temperature was recorded at 20.4 degrees Celsius. A sleep log noting the child's colour, breathing and position was available in the service. A child sleeping was physically checked every 10 minutes by staff members.

### Fire Safety:

The fire emergency exits were free from obstruction in the premises. A fire assembly point was noted to the side of the premises.

### Outing:

The ECCE children went on an outing to the local biodiversity garden during the inspection.

A risk assessment for the outing was available and reviewed.

## 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 qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

A first aid box was located in the front reception of the service.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the service.

## 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)

A written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 9 February 2026.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises were serviced on the 2 September 2025 and 21 January 2026 respectively.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service. The expiry date noted was 27 March 2026.