

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2025LD001

Name of Service: Wiggles and Giggles

Address of Service: School Land, Ballinalee, Co. Longford

Eircode: N39 C7K2

Name of Registered Provider: Aoife McGauran, Ciara Gilna

Service type: Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 22/10/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan
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

Wiggles and Giggles provide part time and sessional childcare and education for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The hours of operation are between 9:00am - 14:00 hours Monday - Friday.

The service is located in a refurbished change of use building located beside but separate from, the registered providers own residence on the outskirts of Ballinalee, Co. Longford. There is one large care room, sanitary facilities and storage space available. There is a secured spacious outdoor play area at the front of the proposed premises.

Staffing

The registered providers were working in the service on the day of the inspection. Both have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education as per the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 and health, welfare and development of child. 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 providers 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,*

(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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The named persons in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- The records of the two staff members were reviewed.
- (2)
- (a) Two written and verified past employer references were available in respect of two adults whose records were reviewed.
- (b) Not applicable, as all references were from previous employers.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for two adults whose records were reviewed.
- (d) Not applicable, as no adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) Two adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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) There were ten children attending the service and they were supervised directly by two adults.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.
- (8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for the service.

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)

Basic needs of children:

The service promoted a healthy eating policy. The children bring their snacks and lunches, and they are placed in a fridge. The children's water bottles were freely available to them if they needed a drink throughout the morning. Independence was encouraged with children who were toilet trained however the staff members maintained supervision in case any assistance was needed. Nappy changing was completed promptly when required. It was handled in a sensitive and positive manner.

The staff members ensured that the children were appropriately dressed for outdoor play.

A comfortable rest area was available in the care room. Low sleep beds and bedlinen was available for any child attending on a part-time basis who required sleep

The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours. Children were spoken to in a kind and respectful manner. Their first names were used; appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions.

Supporting relationships around children:

The adults were observed being respectful, gentle and kind towards the children in their care and each child was listened to and given time to chat and express their thoughts and feelings. The children were observed to be happy, content and relaxed with the two staff members. There was an established routine and predictability to the mornings activities which the children were very familiar with.

There is an open-door policy for parents. Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times.

Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary, email and telephone contact are also used as alternative methods of communication.

Physical and material environment:

The physical and material environments in the care room were comfortable, inviting and laid out to accommodate the needs of all children. Defined areas of interest were observed. These included a library and rest area combined, a home corner, area with blocks, magnets, connecting toys, peg boards, puzzles and jigsaws, a construction area, small world toys and materials, mark making materials, arts and crafts, musical instruments, sand and playdough on the day of the inspection.

All equipment and materials were accessible to the children and grouped to encourage children to use them independently. Low level chairs and tables were available to the children for meals and tabletop activities.

The secured outdoor area was located at the front of the premises. Equipment included a large wooden multi activity climbing, swing and slide unit on an impact absorbent surface, a wooden mud kitchen, sand / water trays with associative equipment to enable children to extend their play, ride on tractors and trailers, tricycles and push along toy.

Programme of activities:

On the day of the inspection, the children were facilitated to make their own choice in selecting play equipment and activities that they wished to engage with. The staff members supported the children with their activities and did not interfere in the play. The routine was child led and responsive to the children's interests. The children enjoyed outdoor play on the morning of the inspection.

The care room theme was Halloween which was celebrated with themed decorations and soft furnishings. The children enjoyed a very interactive circle time which used music, movement and action songs to learn about numbers, shapes and Halloween.

There was evidence of a short, medium and long term curriculum however it was flexible to enable the children's emergent interests to take priority.