

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY187
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Name of Service:	St. Benedict's Creche
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Address of Service:	St. Benedicts Resource Centre, Swans Nest Road, Kilbarrack, Dublin 5
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Eircode:	D05 V1F6
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kathleen Burns
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	04/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	31
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Griffin
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).

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Description of service

St. Benedict's Creche is a community operated service which operates in a community resource centre in North Dublin. The service is registered to provide part-time care to a maximum of 39 children aged 1-6 years old from 9am-1pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service consists of two care rooms namely the Caterpillar room and the Butterfly room. There is an enclosed outdoor play area which is located in an internal courtyard in the centre of the building. The children also have access to an indoor community centre sports hall. There is sanitary accommodation for children and staff.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service and employs eight adults. This includes the person in charge, deputy person in charge, five early years educators and a part time administrator who does not work directly with the children. In addition, there is one adult who works for an outside agency and provides support to one of the children in the care room.

On the day of the inspection there were six adults present; the office administrator and five adults working directly with the children including the person in charge, deputy person in charge, two early years educators and one support adult from an outside agency. The registered provider was not present on the day of the inspection.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed.

- Regulation 9 (1), (2), (3) and (4) Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11 (1) and (2)
- Regulation 19(1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child
- Regulation 25 First Aid
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures
- Regulation 28 Insurance

However, on inspection an additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 31 Notification of Incidents. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the two care rooms and the outdoor play area.

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

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN 0345	04/06/2026	Evidence of two police vetting disclosures were not available for one adult who had access to children. The police vetting disclosures must be submitted to the inspectorate prior to the person having access or contact with children. This posed a significant safeguarding risk.
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 preventative actions which were accepted by the inspectorate. Police vetting must be submitted to the inspectorate prior to the person having access to children.	
Improvement Notice IN 0347	04/06/2026	The venetian blinds in the Caterpillar care room posed a significant safety risk to children present.
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 preventative 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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) A review of the roster showed that a designated person in charge is rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and staff reported being aware of this.
- (2)** Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that two adults had been employed since the previous inspection. In

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addition, Garda vetting for six adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.

- (a) There was one reference available from a past employer.
- (b) There were three written and validated references from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for eight adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

- (4) Evidence was available to show that the two new adults who work directly with the children held 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN 0345 served.
- (3) The registered provider did not ensure that the checks required under (2) were conducted prior to the start date of one staff member. This posed a safeguarding risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2) (d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN 0345 served.
- (3) Management and administration staff will identify gaps on CVs and ask anyone applying for a position at the service if they have lived outside of the State for more than 6 months since the age of eighteen and if so, will ensure they produce the relevant police vetting needed.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (3) No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider through the corrective and preventive action plan have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 9. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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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 the inspection there were 31 preschool children being cared for by six adults.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection.

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)
- (b) Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed, as evidenced by the following:
- Children were provided with breakfast on arrival, this was followed by a morning snack of fruit, yogurt and a cheese sandwich. Fruit and water were available throughout the session. The service has a healthy food policy which is shared in advance with parents.
 - The staff were observed to be familiar with the children in their care room which enabled them to provide for their individual care needs and play preferences. For example, staff picked up on a child's cue and provided an alternative activity in the hall area before returning to the care room.

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- Children were observed to take part in free play and group work. The layout of the room facilitated these choices as the toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving and were visible and accessible to the children.
- Children's language development was observed to be supported through staff engaging in conversations with the children throughout the inspection. For example, one adult discussed how they use Lámh the Irish Sign Language (ISL), Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device to help support better communication for some of the children. Additionally, children were exposed to the Irish language and appeared to be familiar with saying words in Irish at circle time. Exposure to different languages supports the children's own language development.
- Children were observed to be familiar with cleaning up, putting their toys away and undertaking jobs at snack time. This promoted independence.
- Children were observed to play outdoors during the inspection. This supported their social, cognitive, and gross and fine motor development.

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 door leading to the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises throughout the inspection.
- The inspector was asked to show identification and sign in the visitor book on arrival.
- Toys and equipment used by the children were observed to be well maintained and in a good state of repair.
- The outdoor play area was appropriately secure and children who played outdoors were adequately supervised.

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Infection Control:

- Foot operated pedal bins were observed to be used by children and staff for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care rooms and sanitary facilities.
- Nappy changing mat was observed to be in good condition.
- The sanitary accommodation was equipped with hygienically dispensed soap, hand paper towels and toilet rolls.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in the care rooms, and the windows were open to allow fresh circulation of air.
- The service was observed to be clean. There were cleaning schedules on display.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored safely out of the reach of children.
- There was a documented care plan outlining the procedures for the safe administration of a prescribed medication for a child with a diagnosed medical condition.

Fire Safety:

- Up to date contemporaneous attendance logs for staff and children were available which facilitated the safe evacuation of the premises in the event of an emergency.
- Emergency evacuation routes were clear of any obstructions.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN 0347.
2. There were no window restrictors on the low-level windows in the two care rooms. This posed a safety risk. It is acknowledged that the person in charge took immediate action and put in an order for window restrictors once the identified risk had been brought to their attention.
3. There was a television positioned on a stand in the corridor outside the two care rooms. This stand was observed to be not secured and had a wire hanging from it which was at an accessible height to the children. This posed a potential risk of safety. It is acknowledged that person in charge took immediate action to remove the identified risk once it had been brought to their attention by the inspector.
4. Cleaning agents were observed to be stored and accessible to children in an unlocked press under the sink in the Butterfly room. This posed a potential risk of safety. It is acknowledged that staff took immediate action by locking this press once the identified risk had been brought to their attention by the inspector.

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- A sample of ten accident and incident records were reviewed as part of the inspection. Three of the ten records did not include the date beside the parent/guardian signature. It is important to include a date to show that the form was seen and signed by parent/guardian of the child on the day of incident so they can appropriately monitor their child.

Infection Control:

- The water temperature in three of the four hand washing basins used by the children was recorded above the recommended 43°C. It is acknowledged that the hand basin taps identified were mixer taps. However, this posed a potential risk of cross infection and a potential scald risk as the water temperature was recorded at 45°C.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN 0347.
- New window restrictors were installed on all low-level windows. Low-level windows will only be opened when window restrictors are locked and secure.
- The television is now stored in the creche storeroom away from the main creche, beside the creche office. Staff are aware that if the TV is being used, it is to be placed safely behind a unit, out of reach of children. The TV is then to be returned to the creche storeroom immediately after use.
- Signs are now displayed on the press underneath the sink in both care rooms where cleaning agents are stored. Staff were reminded that all presses containing cleaning agents are to be securely always locked and keys are kept out of reach of children. This item was put on our staff meeting agenda and checks will be made each day to ensure all such items are stored safely,
- Staff were reminded of the importance of ensuring all incident and accident forms are filled in completely. Management will ensure all forms are complete before signing them. Management/Room Leaders will check all accident report books at the end of each week to ensure all forms are completely and correctly filled in.

Infection Control:

- Maintenance staff have changed the water temperature at the thermostat in the wash hand basins in both care room bathrooms. Staff will perform routine checks on the water temperature coming from the wash hand basins in the toilets.

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Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN 0347.
2. Photographic evidence of window restrictors installed on low-level windows.
3. Photographic evidence of the television stored securely.
4. Photographic evidence of sign on press to keep door locked as it contains cleaning agents.
5. No supporting documentation submitted.

Infection Control:

6. No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider through the corrective and preventive action plan have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23.

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) Evidence was available to show that five adults hold certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training and one of these adults is rostered to be present at all times.
- (2) The registered provider ensured the following.
 - (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, and unobstructed if needed to access quickly.
 - (b) The person in charge showed the inspector a suitably equipped first aid box which was available at all times for the adult caring for children attending the service if required.

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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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (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)
- (a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with fire drills carried out monthly with the most recent fire drill completed on the 15 May 2026.
 - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment were up to date. Fire extinguishers were last serviced on 13 August 2025 and the smoke alarms on 2 February 2026.
- (2)
- (c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.
- (4) There was a notice of the fire evacuation procedures displayed in a prominent position on the wall in the care room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service had adequate insurance for a maximum of 39 children attending the service on a part time basis with an expiry date of 27 March 2027.

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Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

(d) a serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner whether in a hospital or otherwise;

Non-Compliance Information

(d) The service did not ensure that the procedure specified under Regulation 31(d) was completed within three working days regarding a recent notifiable incident where a child had sustained an injury while attending the service and required follow up treatment in a medical setting.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A report was immediately submitted to Tusla 05/06/2026, following our inspection on the 04/06/2026. Following any accident that requires medical attention, management will report the incident to Tusla immediately.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence of the notification of incident report submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider through the corrective and preventive action plan have addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 31.