

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LD020
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Name of Service:	Bright Beginnings
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Address of Service:	23 Sycamore Close, Clonbalt Woods, Longford, Co. Longford
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Eircode:	N39 V205
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Name of Registered Provider:	Yvonne Kiernan
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	16
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, SAP Office, St. Loman's Campus, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.
Inspection undertaken by:	C. O' Connor Hughes & K. Murphy
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

This full day care service operates on a Monday to Friday basis from 07:30 to 18:00. The service participates in the Early Childcare Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The service is operated by a private provider.

The Early Years' Service is located in a two-storey premises. The baby room, toddler room, ECCE room 1, an office and a sleep room are located on the ground floor. The ECCE 2 room, a school age room and kitchen are located on the first floor. Children had finished their ECCE scheme for the pre-school term in ECCE room 2. A cabin is located attached to the building to cater for school age childcare. A large outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the premises. On site set down and parking facilities are available. The service is located on the outskirts of Longford town.

Staffing

The registered provider employs eight staff members. The registered provider, deputy person in charge and four staff members were working directly with the children on the 18 June 2026. A cook is also employed in the service. Agency staff from Catkins on the move are employed as relief staff in the service as required.

The registered provider and deputy person in charge 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.

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

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

Regulation 15- Record of a pre-school child

Regulation 16 – Record of a pre-school service

Regulation 17- Information for parents

Regulation 18 – Copy of the Act and Regulations

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

Regulation 20 – Facilities for Rest and play

Regulation 22- Food and Drink

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 27 - Supervision

Regulation 28 – Insurance

Regulation 33 – Furnishing information to the agency

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.

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The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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*

(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 and deputy were available in the service.

(b)

The registered provider was present for the duration of the inspection.

(4)

Further to a corrective action taken since the last inspection on the 19 November 2025 staff working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at levels 5 to 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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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.

(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 for the seventeen children attending the service.

(2)

Baby Room	Toddler Room	ECCE room 2
3 children (1-2 years)	6 children (2-3 years)	8 children (3-4 years)
FDC	FDC	FDC
1 adult	1 adult	2 adults

The registered provider and deputy person in charge provided relief as required to support the staff members in the above rooms.

(8)(a)

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

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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.*

Compliance Information

(1)

In a sample review of twelve child enrolment records information relating to (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h) and (i) was available in respect of the children attending the service.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)

The service kept and maintained written records of information in relation to the service in accordance with Regulation 16 (1) (a)(b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (h) (i) (j) and (k).

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

Information was available for parents in the service in respect of Regulation 16(1) (a) to (g) in a parent handbook emailed to parents at the start of the pre-school term.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

A copy of the of Part V11A (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No.40 of 2013)) of the Act and Regulations was available for inspection by (a)(b)(c).

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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)

There was a calm and happy atmosphere in the service as children learning through play. Children enjoyed moving from one play experience to the next in the indoor and outdoor environments supported by the adults.

Children participated in circle time, story time, singing songs and free play. Nappy changing was carried out on a regular basis and as required. Positive interactions were observed between the adult and child during nappy changing. The child's privacy was maintained during the nappy change. Children were given the opportunity to sleep and rest during the day. Younger children wore bibs to protect their clothes at mealtimes. Children enjoyed their dinner and took their time eating. Children were encouraged to be independent and to feed themselves. Staff assisted children as needed during mealtimes. Adults sat with children encouraging conversations and interactions.

Children were happy and content with their carers. Good communication was observed between staff and children as the staff used individual names, maintained eye contact and conversed with the children during play activities, nappy changing, toileting and mealtimes. Positive praise was given to children on the completion of activities. Good teamwork was noted amongst staff.

Partnership with parents was demonstrated in the following ways: verbal handover on collection, a communication diary for younger children noting their feeding, toileting, sleeping and play routine during the day. A short messaging system (SMS) was used to provide information and updates. Each child's "my pre-school activities" book depicting the children's work and play activities and is shared with parents at the end of the pre-school term.

The indoor environment provided an experience that was developmentally challenging, diverse, creative and enriching for the children. The pre-school rooms were bright and colourful. Low level tables and chairs were in place. Age and stage appropriate toys and play materials were accessible to children on low level shelving. Children's artwork "our summer display" and photographs were displayed in the pre-school rooms.

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Evidence of the early childhood curriculum was noted.

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)

Adequate and suitable play equipment was provided for the indoor and outdoor environments. Interest areas were noted

(b)

The sleep room was adjacent to the wobbler room for children to rest and sleep. The sleep room was equipped with five cots. Correct bed linen was available for each cot. Six low level beds were provided for the individual children attending the toddler room. Cosy rest areas and soft furnishings were provided for children in the pre-school rooms.

(3)(a)

Outdoor play areas were available for younger and older children. An all-weather absorbent surface area, a tarmac surface area and a tarmac area with an artificial grass covering were in place. Toys and equipment included a play kitchen, sand trays, mini slides and playhouses, two swing units, a large double slide unit and an outdoor sized board game.

Two sheltered areas were available and provided a space for year-round play outdoors. A variety of bikes, trikes and other toys for physical play were stored in a shed and available for use.

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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 provides the breakfast and the main meal to children attending on a full day care basis. Parents provide the morning and afternoon snacks for the children. A weekly menu was available for review.

At 11:30 children enjoyed their main meal of bacon, mashed potatoes, sweetcorn with gravy presented by the cook in the service. Alternative food options were provided to children as requested. Children drank water with their main meal. A refrigerator was available for the storage of perishable food in the main kitchen and in the pre-school rooms.

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 secure to ensure the safety of the children within the service. The service is accessed through a bell system to allow access to parents and visitors.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents. Risk assessment safety checklists were in place for each pre-school room.

The inspectors signed the visitors book on arrival.

Infection Control:

The premises were visually clean. All toys and materials were easily cleanable. Cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. 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 procedure observed was carried out correctly by the staff member.

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Foot operated pedal bins were available in the sanitary accommodation and in the pre-school rooms for the hygienic disposal of waste.

Natural ventilation was available through openable windows in the pre-school rooms and in the sanitary accommodation. Mechanical ventilation was in operation in the nappy changing room.

Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available if a child presented with a high temperature. Medication was stored safely in the service. No medication was given during the inspection. The administration of medication documentation was available and reviewed.

Safe Sleep:

A sleep record noted the child's colour, breathing and position was available in the service which indicated that sleeping children were checked every ten minutes.

The baby sleep room temperature was recorded at 20 degrees Celsius.

Fire Safety:

Fire exit routes were unobstructed, and a fire assembly point was noted to the front of the premises. Upon discussion with staff, it was noted that staff were familiar with the fire evacuation procedures from the service.

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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)
All 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 area and in the pre-school rooms.
- (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 firefighting 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 21 May 2026.
- (b)
A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and

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smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises were serviced on the 7 August 2025 and 16 March 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 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

Children were supervised directly by adults in the indoor and outdoor environments and when using the toilet during the inspection.

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 2027.

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Part IX - Inspection and Enforcement

Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.

Compliance Information

The registered provider furnished the information required for the inspection.