

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LD022
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Name of Service:	Trinity Tots
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Address of Service:	Deanscurragh, Ballinalee Road, Longford, Co. Longford
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Eircode:	N39 P667
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Name of Registered Provider:	Bridget Glennon
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	02/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM	10
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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, F. Maher.
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Trinity Tots was established in 1997 as privately run childcare service for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years by the registered provider.

The service is operated from a large purpose-built extension to the side of the registered providers main residence. There are two preschool rooms available with adjoining sanitary facilities. An office and storage area are provided also. A spacious fully enclosed outdoor play area is available to the children at the rear of the service. This service operates from 9:10am – 13:55hours.

Set down and parking is available at the front of the registered provider's house.

Staffing

Trinity Tot's employs five childcare staff including the registered provider who works directly with the children while also managing and maintaining oversight of the service. All adults working in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a)(b) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required, were on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c) There is a clear management structure in place in the service, and the staff members were familiar with specific roles and responsibilities of the various staff members in the service.

(2)(a), (b), (c), (d), (4)

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that no adults had been employed since the previous inspection. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 adult to child ratio was always maintained during the inspection.
- (2) There were twenty-seven children attending the service being supervised directly by five adults during the inspection.
- (8)(a) The staff roster indicated that there was always a minimum of two adults on the premises.

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-*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(b)
- Children were observed to enjoy the play activities during the morning session in the two care rooms and this included self-directed free play, tabletop activities, and outdoor play.
- Children enjoyed a healthy lunch provided by their parents which consisted of sandwiches, crackers and cheese, fruit and yoghurt with water to drink.
- Children were encouraged to be independent as they dressed for outdoor play assisted by staff as needed. Children went to the toilet independently and washed their hands supervised by staff.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The staff were positive towards children and were familiar with each child and their personalities. Staff used individual names, maintained eye contact and conversed with the children during play activities. There was a routine and predictability to the morning and the children responded very well to this.

The two care rooms were bright and colourful with children's artwork displayed.

The physical and material environment of both rooms were constructively planned, considered and presented from a child's perspective. They were well resourced with equipment, toys and resources including Montessori equipment. The indoor environments had interesting play and learning spaces which provided developmentally appropriate, challenging, diverse, creative and enriching experiences that facilitated child led play.

Areas of interest were evident and included a home area, construction area, rest area, library corner, mark making arts and crafts area, puzzles, jigsaws and sensorial materials were noted. Low level tables and chairs were in place.

The service works in partnership with parents and guardians. There is an open door policy, and information is shared at the drop off and collection point as the parents were collecting their children. A closed electronic messaging system was in place with parents sharing the children's daily play and work activities.

Children attending on a part time basis were provided with a second mealtime and facilities were available for any child who needed to sleep.

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 service was secured and managed by staff members to prevent children exiting the service unsupervised or unauthorised entry. The inspectors signed the visitor book on arrival. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. There was documentary evidence available that daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed daily and reviewed by the registered provider weekly to promptly identify and manage any potential risks in the care rooms. The service had a system in place to manage maintenance issues.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members were familiar with the importance of handwashing practice as a means to

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

control the spread of infection in the service. They supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Nappy changing facilities were available in the service. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal and containment of used tissues.

Children's lunches were refrigerated on arrival at the service.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the two room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection; written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with the required practices when administering medication and documentation of same. Medicine was safely stored in the service. A health care plan was in place for a child requiring medication to be given in the event of an emergency.

Safe Sleep:

Comfortable rest areas were available for the children in each care room if they wished to take a break from activities and rest. There were facilities available for children attending on a part time basis requiring sleep or rest.

Fire Safety:

The staff members were familiar with the fire evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed. Fire drills were carried out and records maintained. Appropriate fire signage was in place.

Outing:

The registered provider stated that are not conducted.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) Staff members present were trained in first aid for children and available to the children attending the service.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the two care rooms.
 - (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending 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 numbers of children attending the service. The expiry date was noted to be 27 November 2027.