

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO025							
Name of Service:	Breaffy Crèche & Pre-school							
Address of Service:	Clogher, Breaffy, Castlebar, Co Mayo, F23 AK46							
Email Address:	mcresham@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Margaret Cresham							
Type of Service Registered:	Full Day Care		☒					
Date of Inspection:	2	8	0	7	2	0	2	1
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	12	PM	-				
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.							
Inspection undertaken by:	M. Farrell							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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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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Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016
REF: EYIRIFDC02-2017: Version 12: Mar 2021
1.0

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Description of Service	This privately owned full day care service is located in a rural area in County Mayo. The service is registered to cater for children aged from one to six years of age between the hours of 08:00-18:00.
Premises	The premises is a single storey building purpose built for the provision of childcare services and is located beside the registered provider's home. There are three playrooms, a kitchen/dining room, sanitary accommodation and a large outdoor play area located to the rear of the building.
Staffing	There were a total of eight adults including the registered provider employed in the service. One of the adults was employed as a cook in the service. Five adults were present during the inspection with four of the adults working directly with the preschool children.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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. 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 areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (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—
- (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:

The inspection focused on the management and recruitment of adults who had commenced working in the service since the most recent focused inspection on the 4th of February 2019.

It was confirmed by the registered provider on the day of the inspection that three adults had commenced in the service since this inspection. The following documents were available on file or not required for the adults:

- (2)
- (c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for three adults.
- (d) International police vetting was not required for any of the three adults who had not resided outside of the State for a period longer than six months as an adult.
- (4)
- Evidence of the completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework was available for all three adults.

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 registered provider ensured that there was at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in the service. On the inspector's unannounced arrival to the service there were three adults providing direct care to ten preschool children.
- (2) The adult to child ratios were observed to be maintained throughout the unannounced inspection in line with the required ratios taking into consideration the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as follows:
- Baby playroom: One adult cared for three children aged between one and two years of age and one child aged between two and three years of age.
- Full Day Care playroom: Two adults cared for eight children aged between three and six years of age.
- Additional staff present in the service during the inspection included the registered provider who prepared the main meal for the children and provided relief cover as needed in the playrooms and one adult who provided direct care for four school aged children.
- (8)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that there were at least two adults present on the premises on the day. However, the registered provider did acknowledge incorrect recording of staff attendance in the service on the day.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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:

BASIC NEEDS:

- On the morning of the inspection a snack of prepared fruits, yoghurt and toast was provided by the service for the children. The dining room was used for the children to eat their snacks and meals and was cleaned down in between use by the separate play-pods. A four week menu was displayed on the entrance door to the service for parent's information. A main meal of fish fingers, waffles and beans was provided for the children at lunchtime. The adults were observed to supervise the children at meal times and encourage socialisation. Drinks of water were available at all times to the children during the inspection.
- A nappy changing unit was provided with the service's nappy changing procedure displayed on the wall of the unit. The adults changed the children's nappies at regular intervals during the day in response to their individual needs. Children who were toilet trained were encouraged to self-toilet with appropriate levels of supervision and assistance provided as needed.
- Attention was paid by the adults to the children's personal cleanliness with one child's clothing changed in the Baby playroom as it was wet. The adults were observed to encourage and support the children to wash their hands for example in the Full Day Care playroom on return from the outdoor area and after toileting.
- Children's individual sleep routines were observed to be accommodated in the service. Individual cots were provided for the children aged below two years with stackable sleep beds and sleep mats provided for children aged over two years of age. The playrooms had dedicated areas with wipeable soft seating where children could relax during the day if they wished.
- The children in attendance in the Full Day Care playroom spent the majority of the inspection playing in their dedicated outdoor play area with a variety of play equipment promoting gross motor activity and imaginary play. The children in the Baby playroom were observed to move around freely in the room playing with toys and equipment.
- The adults were observed to use positive approaches to behaviour management with children's positive behaviour appropriately praised and encouraged. The adults in the Full Day Care playroom were observed to encourage the children to turn-take with play equipment in the outdoor area to prevent disagreements.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The adults were observed to interact warmly with the children in their care calling them by name and using positive language with appropriate levels of praise and encouragement. The adults were observed to be responsive to the children's needs and responded to their cues in relation to sleep, feeding and toileting/nappy changing in a timely manner.
- The children were advised by the adults of upcoming transitions such as sleep time and meal times.
- Brief handovers of information were exchanged between parents and the adults on the children's arrival and departure from the service. A number of young children in the Baby playroom had record books where the adults recorded information on the children's nappy changes/sleep and eating during the day.
- The adults were observed to work well as a team linking in with each other regularly to confirm if assistance was required and to coordinate activities.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- There were three playrooms in the service, the Baby playroom catering for children aged from one to three years of age, the Full Day Care playroom catering for children aged from three to six years of age and the Sessional playroom that did not have preschool children in attendance on the day of the inspection. Age appropriate seating with tables waist high for the children was provided in the playrooms. Highchairs with five point harnesses were provided for the younger children attending the service in the dining room.
- The service was resourced with a range of age-appropriate toys and play-equipment to promote all areas of development including gross motor, fine motor, cognitive and language development. Low level shelving and storage was used to display the toys allowing the children to select and replace items of interest. The adults advised the inspector that toys and play equipment in the playrooms had been reviewed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic with items that could not be readily cleaned removed. The toys and equipment available to the children in attendance were varied and suited to the ages and developmental stages of the children and were arranged in clearly defined areas of interest for example a home corner, shop area, rest area, book corner, table top area and art and crafts area with a large easel in the Full Day Care playroom.
- There was a large outdoor play area located to the rear of the premises that had been divided into three sections. The adults advised the inspector that the time the children spent playing outdoors was maximised in line with the service's COVID-19 Policy and Response Plan. On the day of the inspection the children from the Full Day Care playroom spent the majority of time playing outdoors. The children attending the Baby playroom had access to an area with grass ground covering and cement pathways. There was a low level wooden shelter with a clear plastic roof for the children. Wooden blocks, ride on toys, a mud kitchen, water play area and slide were provided for the children to play with in this area.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The children attending the Full Day Care playroom were observed to play in an area with grass and tarmac pathways. They had access to a wooden shed that contained a large climbing-frame system and slide. Sunken tyres were anchored into sections of the grassed area. The adults advised the inspector that the children used the small wooden logs provided in the area for imaginary play involving pretend camp fires. A swing system and seesaw was also available for gross motor activity. Some of the children were observed to enjoy "making dinner" at the mud kitchen in one corner of their outdoor space. Other play equipment in this area included small playhouses and wheel barrows.

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 door was found to be secured on the inspector's unannounced arrival to the service. A buzzer system was in place to gain access and the inspector was admitted into the building by the deputy designated person in charge. The side entrance door to the Sessional playroom was observed to be secured during the inspection.
- Cleaning products were stored in a secured storage unit in the kitchen or high level shelving in the playrooms and hand sanitiser was stored out of reach of the children.
- The toys and play equipment in the Baby and Full Day Care playrooms were observed to be in good condition and suitable for the age group of the children using them at the time of the inspection.
- The window blind used to darken the sleep room was observed to be secured as required.
- The hot water in the wash hand basins was recorded under the required 43 °C to prevent a risk of scalding and to facilitate effective handwashing.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The service had revised their infection control measures arising from the national guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic and had a COVID-19 Policy and Response Plan in place. In order to minimise contacts between people in the service a play-pod system with each room treated as a separate play-pod with a designated outdoor space. Visitors to the service had been restricted to those carrying out essential work.
- Adequate hand washing facilities were available throughout the service with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels available. Hand sanitiser dispensers were available in the service dispensing hand sanitiser. Hand hygiene was observed to be practiced frequently by the adults and the children for example after outdoor play, toileting and before dinner time.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	- The entrance hallway had been designated as the area to be used to accommodate a child or staff member in the event of becoming ill and showing symptoms of COVID-19 whilst in attendance in the service. Supplies of personal protective equipment including disposable gloves, aprons and facemasks were provided for use by the adults as appropriate. - A system was in place in the Baby playroom for the cleaning/disinfecting of any mouthed toys directly following use by the children. The adults advised the inspector that the individual cot linen provided for each child was laundered on a regular basis. SAFE SLEEP: - A separate sleep room was provided adjacent to the Baby playroom and had standard cots with well-fitting safety mattresses. The sleep room temperature was recorded at 20°C at 10:40hrs and 19.9 °C at 13:50hrs on the day of the inspection. There was a distance of at least 50cm between the cots. The adult in the Baby playroom was observed to check on sleeping children at ten minute intervals and record the findings on sleep logs. FIRE SAFETY: - The fire exits were observed to be free from obstruction during the period of inspection.
Non-Compliance Information:	GENERAL SAFETY: - The side of one of the cots in the sleep room was broken and unsecure. It is acknowledged that the adults advised the inspector that the cot was not in use at the time of the inspection. - A wooden picnic bench in the section of the outdoor area used by the children attending the Baby playroom had two screws exposed and sections of wood that were in a state of disrepair and posed a risk of injury from splinters to a child. One of the plastic containers used for water activities by the children attending the Baby playroom was broken with a large piece of plastic missing and had jagged sharp edges that posed a risk of injury to a child. INFECTION CONTROL: - There was no storage containers provided in the Baby playroom for the storage of children's soothers. - The four highchairs in the dining room required deep cleaning with the straps of the highchairs noted to be dirty. - The mattresses in the sleep room did not have waterproof coverings and posed difficulties for effective cleaning. It is acknowledged that the adults advised the inspector that children had sole use of a cot at the time of the inspection. - A number of the cleaning records had not been accurately maintained in the service including the cleaning records for the Full Day Care playroom that had

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

not been completed since the 13th of July 2021, the dining room with the last entry dated the 2nd of July 2021 and the nappy changing unit last completed on the 8th of July 2021.

SAFE SLEEP:

7. There were no records of the monitoring of the sleep room air temperature available for the day of the inspection or for previous days. It is acknowledged that the registered provider moved a thermometer into the sleep room to record the air temperature of the sleep room before the inspector left the service.
8. A number of fleece blankets were in use in the sleep room for children aged below two years of age in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider advised in a written response that:

CORRECTIVE ACTION

GENERAL SAFETY:

1. The cot has been repaired.
2. The wooden bench has been removed from this area. The plastic container from the outdoor baby area has been removed and replaced.

INFECTION CONTROL:

3. All soothers are stored in individual pots marked with the children names.
4. Highchairs covers are removed every Friday and are wiped down between each use.
5. The service has purchased waterproof covers that can be wiped down and removed to be washed.
6. The cleaning schedules have been updated.

SAFE SLEEP

7. The sleep room is now monitored every 10 minutes and recorded on sleep chart.
8. The fleece blankets have been removed.

PREVENTIVE ACTION

GENERAL SAFETY:

1. The cots will be checked by the registered provider every week.
2. The outdoor area will be checked before use to identify any risks that could pose a hazard to the children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

3. The staff have been advised that all soothers should be stored in individually labelled pots.
4. The manager will check the highchairs every Friday and remove the covers and wash them.
5. The waterproof mattress covers are checked and cleaned on a weekly basis.
6. The cleaning schedules are checked and signed off by the designated person in charge on a weekly basis.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

SAFE SLEEP

7. Fleece blankets are no longer used in this service.
8. The sleep room is monitored every 10 minutes with records kept and checked by manager in the evening.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

The registered provider submitted the following evidence to the Early Years Inspectorate:

GENERAL SAFETY:

1. Photographic evidence of the repaired cot side.
2. Photographic evidence of the removal of the wooden bench.

INFECTION CONTROL:

3. Photographic evidence of the individual storage containers for the soothers.
4. Photographic evidence of the cleaning of the highchairs.
5. Photographic evidence of the new waterproof mattress covers.
6. Written evidence of up-to date cleaning records.

SAFE SLEEP

8. Written evidence of the recording of the sleep room temperatures.

Summary Comment:

The actions taken together with the evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate and deemed to have met the requirements of the regulation.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 25 - First Aid

- (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:

(2) (a)

There was a first aid box stored on a high shelf in the Preschool Sessional playroom.

(b)

The first aid box was available to the children at all times should a child require first aid treatment.

Non-Compliance Information:

(2)(a) &(b)

The first aid box was not suitably equipped with inadequate supplies of sterile eye pads, antiseptic wipes, triangular bandages and dressings for the numbers of children in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider advised in a written response that:

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The first aid box has been restocked.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 25 - First Aid

PREVENTIVE ACTION

The first aid box will be checked on a weekly basis.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

Photographic evidence of the restocking of the first aid box with suitable equipment was submitted by the registered provider to the Early Years Inspectorate on the 21st of September 2021.

Summary Comment:

The actions taken together with the evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate and deemed to have met the requirements of the regulation.

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) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the monthly fire drills that were undertaken in the service.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises was maintained with the fire fighting equipment last maintained on the 28th of February 2021 and the smoke alarms recorded as maintained on the 5th of May 2021.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children

Additional Significant Risk Identified

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required.

Non-Compliance Information:

A significant risk in relation to the safety of the children has been identified in relation to;

(d)

There were large extensive cracks observed in the ceiling and walls of the Sessional playroom and in the ceiling of the Full Day Care playroom.

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Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children Additional Significant Risk Identified

Regulation 29 – Premises

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider advised in a written response that: <u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> The cracks in the ceiling have been fixed by the original building contractor. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> The ceiling will be monitored for any further cracks. The service is waiting for a painter to come and paint the ceiling. This work is scheduled to be carried out in October 2021. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> Photographic evidence of repairs to the cracks in the ceiling and walls was submitted by the registered provider to the Early Years Inspectorate on the 21st of September 2021.
Summary Comment	The actions taken together with the evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate and will meet the requirements of the regulation following the completion of the painting works.

Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children Additional Significant Risk Identified

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: (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis; (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;	
Non-Compliance Information:	A significant risk in relation to the safety of the children has been identified in relation to: (h) The records of attendance of the children in the Baby playroom did not include records of the times of departure of the children from the service. (i) The roster displayed on the wall in the entrance hallway did not accurately reflect the staff present in the service on the day of the inspection. The roster did not record the break times of the adults and did not set out the adult:child ratio on a daily basis for each area of the service. One of the adults was inaccurately recorded in the staff attendance records as being in attendance in the service at 9am on the 26th of July 2021 but informed the inspector that they had in fact been in attendance from 8am.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider advised in a written response that: <u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> The record attendance book in the Baby playroom now records in and out times. A new roster has been written up and is checked weekly on Fridays. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> The Baby playroom attendance book is now checked every Friday. The staff roster will be altered daily with any staffing alterations. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> The registered provider submitted the following evidence:

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Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children Additional Significant Risk Identified

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

	(h) Evidence of the recording of the times of attendance of children in the Baby playroom. (i) A copy of the new staff roster.
Summary Comment	The actions taken together with the evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate and deemed to have met the regulatory requirements.