

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX025
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Name of Service:	Carraig Briste
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Address of Service:	Templescoby, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y21 Y6N6
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Name of Registered Provider:	Orlagh Doyle
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/05/2026
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Date of Inspection:	15/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	75	PM	52
No of pre-school children:	AM	75	PM	NA

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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

Carraig Briste is a privately operated preschool located in a rural community outside Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. It offers full day care, part time and a sessional service to children aged 6 months to 6 years of age. The service is open from 7.45am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from three buildings: two modern houses which consists of six playrooms, and a log cabin which operates as the school in the forest. There are designated sleep rooms and sleep areas, two kitchens, dining areas, toilets, and an office. There are various large outdoor gardens, and natural play areas are available on the premises which the children have direct access to. The services offer children a Montessori, Reggio Emilia and Forrest school ethos.

Staffing

The registered provider and the childcare manager are the designated people in charge daily and are rostered supernumerary to the staff working directly with the children. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5, 6, 7 and 8 qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education. The service also employs a caretaker, maintenance and administrative staff.

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.

Regulation 9(1)(2)(4) – Management and Recruitment,

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Regulation 11(1)(2) – Staffing Levels,
Regulation 21 – Equipment and Materials,
Regulation 25 – First Aid,
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety,
Regulation 27 – Supervision and
Regulation 28 – Insurance.

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

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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*

(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)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge. There was a second-named person available to deputise for the registered provider as required.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 21 staff employed in the service and one student on work placement.

There were written and validated references available on file for staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.

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(d)

Police vetting was on file for staff members who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for all the staff working directly with the children.

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)(2)

During the inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

Day 1:

During the morning there were 14 staff caring for 75 children.

During the afternoon there were 11 staff caring for 52 children.

Day 2:

During the morning there were 11 staff caring for 75 children.

The registered provider and manager were also present and supernumerary to the staff compliment.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The indoor and outdoor environments were set up and resourced to reflect the service's childcare approach by providing children with opportunities for exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning through nature and open-ended play. Natural materials such as sand, water, plants, wood, and loose parts were available to encourage curiosity, problem-solving, and imaginative play.

The outdoor areas were arranged to support child-led learning and independence while promoting communication, uninterrupted play and learning. Staff were observed supporting the children's interests and ideas through meaningful interactions.

The playrooms in the setting were organised to provide an open, welcoming, and relaxing space for the children. The rooms were arranged with a variety of interest areas to support their activities, play, reading and quiet time. Furniture and equipment were accessible, encouraging independence and allowing children to move freely and confidently within the rooms. For example, some tables were placed lower on the ground, so children were not required to sit on a chair at table for play if they did not want to.

Two kitchens were available to the younger children to eat their meals. There were highchairs available to support feeding of younger children. Older children ate their meals in the outdoor dining areas, which were located in sheltered areas. The service had an outdoor eating policy which reflected the practice seen on the day. A wide range of equipment, toys and materials were available to support the children's learning and development. Toys, books, puzzles, art materials, natural materials, loose parts and sensory resources were observed to be well maintained and of good quality. The service ensured that materials and equipment were removed and replaced once no longer suitable. For example, materials and equipment in outdoor areas which were exposed to the elements were removed by the caretaker when they showed excessive wear and tear and were no longer safe for use.

Each of the rooms reflected the different age groups, abilities and developmental stages, social interaction, and physical development of the children attending the setting.

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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 doors leading into the lower and upper house were appropriately secured with keypads to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. Gates throughout the service were observed closed during both days of inspection.

Each of the outdoor areas were fully enclosed.

Cleaning agents and medication were stored out of children's reach and storage facilities were inaccessible to children. Emergency exits were unobstructed and staff were aware of the evacuation procedures and location of the assembly point.

The registered provider had risk assessment and policy in place to ensure children and staff safety while attending the service. For example, a specific risk assessment was in place for the Forest School.

A sample of eight accident and incident forms were reviewed and were fully completed and signed.

Infection Control:

The playrooms and sanitary areas were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels. Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before eating, after messy play and after toileting. Staff were observed to attend to children's personal hygiene after eating by cleaning their faces and hands.

Administration of Medication:

There was an administration of medication policy. The staff discussed with the inspectors the procedure to follow when a child required administration of medicine. A sample of eight medication record forms including one individual health care plan were reviewed on the day and were completed in line with the service's policy. Medication was appropriately stored on premises.

Safe Sleep:

The staff were observed to physically check and record the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children every 10 minutes in line with good safe sleep practices.

Cots were used for younger children to sleep in and sleep beds/ mats were available for older children.

Appropriate bed linen was in use for sleeping children.

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Staff set up the sleep rooms and sleep areas to ensure they were dimmed, relaxing and conducive for sleep and rest.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- The practices observed during nappy changing were not carried out consistently, in line with service's infection control policy, posing a risk of contamination. The following was observed:
 - Children's hands were not washed after their nappy was changed.
 - Staff did not consistently wash their hands after every nappy change.
 - Staff did not consistently change their aprons between each nappy change.
 - The changing mat was not cleaned between each nappy change.
 - Children's individual creams and ointments for use during nappy changing were stored in a communal box and not stored individually. This created a risk of cross contamination as staff did not remove their gloves while accessing them.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective & Preventive Action

Following the inspection, a staff meeting was held to address the infection control non-compliance identified. The meeting focused on reinforcing the service's Nappy Changing Procedure and Handwashing Policy to ensure all staff clearly understand and consistently adhere to the required infection prevention and control practices.

The following actions and improvements were implemented:

All changing rooms were thoroughly cleaned, decluttered, and reorganised.

PPE equipment are positioned in all changing areas to ensure easy access for staff.

Individual creams are now stored separately in each child's personal drawer alongside their nappies and wipes to minimise the risk of cross-contamination.

Disinfectant spray bottles were placed beside all changing units to ensure changing mats and surrounding areas are cleaned and disinfected before and after every use.

Children are supported, in an age-appropriate manner, to wash their hands following every nappy change.

Staff and children use the "Wash Wash Your Hands" song during handwashing routines to encourage effective handwashing practices in a positive and engaging way.

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The management will continue to monitor compliance by carrying out spot checks, and the item will be discussed at our next staff meeting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Nappy changing policy, checklist procedure, photographs of individual creams and nappy changing units and staff meeting minutes.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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)

There were three people trained in a first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service. There was also evidence on file that 10 staff working with the children were trained in a Paediatric first aid course.

(2)(a)(b)

There were a suitably equipped first aid boxes stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which were available to the children attending the preschool service.

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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.*
- (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)

Fire drills were completed monthly. The last fire drill completed was recorded on the 12 May 2026.

(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in August 2025.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire 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

The service ensured that the children were appropriately supervised at all times throughout the inspection.

All staff were suitably qualified and had extensive experience working with children. The child staff ratios were fully maintained in line with the requirements outlined under the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services)

Regulations 2016. The service ensured that staff were inducted in line with the service recruitment policy, with staff supervision and meetings taking place throughout the year. Evidence on staff files demonstrated that staff attended regular training days.

Supervision in the outdoor spaces:

The outdoor areas were designed to give children space and freedom. Staff actively supervised the children during outdoor play to ensure their safety and wellbeing. Each of the outdoor areas were fully enclosed allowing children the freedom within each of the spaces, balanced with the staff's ability to fully see children at all times. The staff discussed with the inspector measures in place to ensure the children's wellbeing and safety. For example, staff

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regularly carried out head counts of the number of children in their care, and the service implemented the practice of working in smaller groups with the children. The staff were observed to regularly communicate between themselves. For example, they shared with each when they were going indoors, bringing children to toilets or preparing for mealtimes.

Toileting:

Children were encouraged to use the toilet facilities independently and staff stood within hearing range while children used the toilets, available to help as needed and prompting children with handwashing.

During mealtimes:

During mealtimes the staff sat with the children. Children were encouraged to feed themselves independently and staff provided help and encouragement as needed. Mealtimes were relaxed, calm and sociable.

During sleep:

Children were monitored closely while sleeping and resting to ensure they were safe, comfortable, and breathing normally. Child staff ratios were maintained across the service during sleep and rest times. The service's practice was for staff to remain in the rooms with the children during sleep and rest periods.

Management of drop off and collection of children:

Due to size and layout of the service there were established protocols in place for the drop off and collection of children to and from the service.

Parents and guardians were observed arriving at collection times. It was observed that each child was handed over individually to their respective parent or guardian by staff members. This time also provided an opportunity for parents and guardians to share information about their child's day. Parents were sent reminders to ensure that entrance gates are kept closed at all times.

Risk Assessments:

Risk assessments and safety checks were completed regularly to identify and minimise potential hazards within the childcare setting ensuring materials, equipment, and environments were maintained for a safe environment for all children. The service employed a caretaker to ensure the equipment and materials were repaired and replaced and suitable for the children. The outdoor area was checked regularly for hazards.

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Part VI - Safety
Regulation 28 - Insurance
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.</i>
Compliance Information
The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for full day care for 86 children.