

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016MO004
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Name of Service:	Little Treasures Creche
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Address of Service:	Newtown, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F23 P588
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Name of Registered Provider:	Beverley Flynn
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	17/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	14
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency Unit 2, First Floor, Loughrea Shopping Centre, Athenry Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway. H62 XR82
Inspection undertaken by:	B Lavin
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

Little Treasures Creche is a privately owned service located in Castlebar town in County Mayo. The service is registered to provide sessional and parttime services for children aged from two to six years of age. The sessional services run from 09:00-12:00 with parttime care provided until 14:00 hours for 38 weeks of the year. A school aged service is also provided in the setting. There are two playrooms, a kitchen and sanitary facilities available to the preschool children on the ground floor of the building, which was converted for use as a childcare setting. An enclosed outdoor area is provided to rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are seven staff employed to work in the service including the registered provider who does not work directly with the children.

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

On inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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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, 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.*

(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.*

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(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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
 - (b) During the period of inspection, the person in charge was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.
- (2) Following a review of the service files and discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that there were seven members of staff employed in the service.
 - (a) There were 12 written and appropriately validated references available from a previous employer.
 - (b) There were two written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than a previous employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for seven staff. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting disclosures were available for three adults working in the service as they had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out completely before staff members were appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) Six staff working directly with the children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children attending the preschool service.
There were five adults working directly with children on the day of inspection.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were provided on the morning of inspection in accordance with the required ratios considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:
- ECCE 2: Three adults cared for 15 children aged between 4 and 5 years of age.
 - ECCE 1: Two adults cared for 13 children aged between 3 and 4 years of age.
- (8) There were at least two adults present in the service during the operation hours of the service.

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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, and

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

(1)(a)

- Drinking water was available on low tables in each playroom to all children throughout the day.
- In the morning a snack was provided from home which consisted of yogurts, crackers, cheese and sandwiches.
- The main meal provided by parents was served at 12.45pm and consisted of fruit, filled sandwiches, sliced meat, yogurts, cheese and rice.
- Care and attention were taken during mealtimes to eat at the child's pace and staff encouraged and supported children to feed themselves independently according to their age and stage of development.
- The staff were observed sitting at the child's level and chatted in a respectful manner during meal and snack times.
- The privacy and dignity of each child was respected during toileting practices.
- Appropriate rest facilities were available in the care rooms and children were observed spending time in these areas for short periods of rest throughout the day.
- The children had access to the outside area throughout the day. Children were observed to play, explore, climb, swing and play in the outdoor area to the rear of the service.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.
- The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours and supported children to find positive solutions to sharing toys, equipment and turn taking.
- The adults working with the children created a positive atmosphere, having frequent social conversations, joint laughter and showing affection.
- A transition to primary school project was underway in the service. There was a photo wall developed showing the various primary schools the children will be attending.

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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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Perishable food items from the children's snack and main meal were not stored in a fridge. They were kept in the children's bags and stored at the room temperature of 19.5 °C taken at 12:50 pm on the day of inspection. Children were in attendance in the service from 9:00 am and the perishable food items were served at 12:45 pm. This is longer than the recommended limit of two hours unrefrigerated. This posed a risk to the safety of the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

A new fridge has been purchased and will be used in ECCE 2 for the storage of children's perishable food items. The children from ECCE 1 will have their perishable food items stored in the fridge in the kitchen. The healthy eating policy has been updated to reflect this change and all staff have been informed of this update.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Copy of the receipt for the new fridge was submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions together with the evidence submitted adequately address the non-compliance.

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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 fire fighting 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) Monthly fire drills were furnished, the last date recorded was noted as 13th May 2026.
 - (b) Written records were available of the servicing of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms. The recorded dates were noted as 25th August 2025 and 29th August 2025 respectively.
- (2)(c) The records referred to in paragraph (1) were available on the premises for review.
- (4) The fire procedure notices were visible on the walls of the service ensuring that the adults were aware of the steps to be followed in the event of an emergency to ensure the safety of the children and adults on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service was insured. Written records were furnished which included the following details:

- The name, address and contact details of the insurance company
- The name and address of the service
- The number of children for whom the service is insured: 44
- The type of service: Part time care.

Expiry date: 27th March 2027.