

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Final TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022GY004
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Name of Service:	Coill na nÓg-Claran Community Childcare Company
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Address of Service:	Claran, Headford, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 Y443
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Name of Registered Provider:	Brendan Kyne
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	05/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	26	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly.
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

This service offers a sessional, part time or full day care service to preschool children aged between 2 years and 6 years. It operates from 07.45 to 18.00 Monday to Friday. This service was established in 2022 and operated from playrooms on the grounds of Claran National school, Headford, Co Galway.

Staffing

There are 11 staff employed in the service, the registered provider is supernumerary and does not work in the service on a daily basis.

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.

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.

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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.

Escalation and Enforcement Actions

Action	Date	Detail
Improvement Order IN 2681	11/06/2026	One staff member did not have International Police Vetting for the period of time they lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following service of the notice and the registered provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventive action which was accepted by the inspectorate.	

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*

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- (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.*
- (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) The service manager was the designated person in charge and there were two named persons who were able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the manager and deputy managers were on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there were 10 members of staff employed in the service and 1 registered provider who did not work in the service on a daily basis. Eight staff members work in the early year service and two staff members work in the school aged service . These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

- (2)(a) Of the required 22 written and appropriately validated references 16 were from a previous employer.
- (b) Of the required 22 written and appropriately validated references 6 were from a source other than a previous employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all the staff working in the service. The service did demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every three years.
- (d) Police vetting disclosures were available for the three adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months.
- (4) There were eight adults working directly with children that had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or higher on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification that the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality has deemed to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN 2681

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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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the morning of the inspection, there were 26 pre-school children, attending the morning session and 15 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.
- (2) At 10.10 am on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.
- ECCE Preschool room- there were 4 adults caring for 21 children aged between 3 years and 5 years old.
 - Toddler room- there were 2 adults caring for 5 children aged between 2 years and 3 years old.
- (8)(a) The staff rosters indicated that there were two staff members on the premises during operational hours.

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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

- Children's drinks were available to the children throughout the day; the drinks were located on a low-level table in the playrooms. The children had access to their drinks throughout the day without having to ask staff members to assist them.
- Children washed their hands before snack time and after outdoor play.
- Children had access to the outdoor space on a daily basis. The children were observed happily playing in the outdoor space on the day of inspection. The children had allocated time in the various areas throughout the day. The children appeared happy and content exploring the different areas of the space. This was evident from their laughter while playing and running around the area.
- The children's sanitary areas were conveniently located adjacent to the playrooms. The staff were heard giving children little prompts when they picked up cues from the children that they may need to use the toilet.
- The staff allowed for each child's comfort. There were a range of soft seating options including low-level child sized sofas and cushions. They were available in all the playrooms for the children to sit and relax. Stackable beds were used for children aged over two years of age to sleep and relax. On the day of inspection, the staff recognised for need for young children to rest, relax and sleep. Stackable beds were put down in the Toddler playroom and the staff sat with the children while the slept. Any child not requiring sleep or that woke before the rest of the children had the opportunity to play in another playroom or play in the outdoors area.
- There were no behavioural management issues observed during the inspections, the staff present were observed to speak to the children in calm voices and interacted with the children in a positive manner.
- The staff had introduced a chart to help the children understand the concept of sharing. A poster with an arrow and two spaces was on display. Each child put their picture in a space and put an arrow beside one of their pictures, a sand timer was put on to indicate when it was the children's turn to rotate, the arrow

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was then changed to the other child's photo to indicate that it was time to change turns. This practice helped children regulate and reduce the incidence of disagreement arising from the sharing of toys and turn taking.

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-*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

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) The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid is immediately available to the preschool children attending the service. There were three adults trained in First Aid Responder available to the children.
- (2)(a) There was suitably equipped first aid box available to the children, the contents were checked on a regular basis by a staff member.
- (b) The first aid box was conveniently located in the Preschool playroom of the 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 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) Written records of the fire drills undertaken in the service were kept by staff with the last fire drill recorded as having been undertaken on the 27/05/2026.
- (b) A certificate of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was dated in January 2026. The service record for the maintenance of the smoke alarms stated the last service took place on the 02/04/2026
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the playrooms and in the corridor.