

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2026WW001
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Name of Service:	ROS Brookfield Park Creche
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Address of Service:	Brookefield Park Creche, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A67 H9N9
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Name of Registered Provider:	Amanda Spiteri
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	26/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	3	PM	3
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke
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, which opened in February of this year, consists of a single storey, purpose-built premises which can accommodate the childcare facility, located in Rathnew Co. Wicklow.

It is registered to provide care and education on a part time and full day care basis for children aged between 0 and two years of age and caters for a maximum of six children at present. The hours of operation are between 07:00 and 19:00 Monday to Friday.

There are two care rooms in use at present, the first primary room is known as the Care room and the second room is called the Transition room. Both care rooms have their own sanitary facilities located in the rooms. The Transition room has a dedicated sleep room, where there are individual cot facilities for all the children attending the service. In addition, there are two staff offices, a staff kitchen, washroom, maintenance room, staff toilet, sluice room and a sanitary area with disability access. There is a large enclosed outdoor area attached to the premises which can be accessed from both the Care room and Transition room.

Staffing

There are currently four adults employed in the service. This consists of a manager, two early years educators and an administrative person. All four adults were present on the day of inspection and in addition the area manager was present to help with the inspection.

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

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This inspection was announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ 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.

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, 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.*

(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

Following a discussion with the person in charge and inspecting the staff roster it was confirmed that there are four adults employed in the service, this includes two early years educators, a manager and an administrative person.

A total of six staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection, this included the area manager who was present on the day, and the file of a relief manager from a second service who helps out when required.

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(1)(a)

The person in charge was present and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

There was a clear management structure within the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Written validated references were available in respect of six adults.

(c)

The required three-year Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for six adults.

(d)

International police vetting was available for two adults working in the service who had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months as an adult.

(3)

The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any adult being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4)

Six adults held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

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

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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)
- Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)
- The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were two adults employed to work directly with three children on the day of inspection.

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)
- The adults in the service provided a suitable and caring environment for the children in the service. The children start their day in the Care room and move to the Transition room for their lunch and before sleep time. Parents send in all meals and snacks for their child during the day. Milk is premixed and stored in a fridge until a child requires it. Bottles containing milk are warmed using an appropriate bottle warmer. Children are encouraged to feed themselves or are spoon fed if needed. All children wore bibs while they were eating and there was a highchair with suitable safety straps for each child attending the service. The sanitary area is well laid out and fully equipped for nappy changing. There are fixed times during the day when nappies are changed in addition to when it is required. The care rooms are laid out in such a way to engage young children in activities with equipment and toys that are age appropriate and in excellent condition. All appropriate toys are at the level of the children and are placed out for them to use. Examples of some of the available equipment were large textured play mats, soft cushions, rocking chairs with safety straps, washable toys, assorted sized coloured building blocks, push toys and a ball pool.

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The rooms were well laid out, bright and inviting. The sleep room was maintained at a temperature of 20°C and there is a large outdoor area which is divided between a soft impact surface and a large, grassed area. Parents are spoken to at the end of the day and informed of how their child's day was and if there were any issues. Parents are encouraged to engage directly with the service should they have any concerns or require any information.