

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC047
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Banteer Community Childcare Services CLG
-------------------------	--

Address of Service:	Clonmeen Road, Banteer, Co Cork
----------------------------	---------------------------------

Eircode:	P51 R884
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Eileen Linehan
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	25/08/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	55	PM	41
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	13 Market Square Mallow Cork P1DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	B Fraher
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Banteer Community Childcare Service CLG is a community-based early years care and education facility that offers full day, part-time and sessional care. School age care is also provided. The service is located in a residential area in the village of Banteer in north Cork. It operates from a single storey purpose-built building. There are four care rooms with two sleep rooms located within the main building and four outdoor rooms consisting of two wooden cabins and two modular units. The two modular units were used for school age care on the day of inspection. There is a large reception area, offices, a kitchen, a staff room and adult and child sanitary facilities located within the service. The large outdoor play area has dedicated secure outdoor play areas within it. Parking is available in the front of the service.

Staffing

There are 43 adults associated with the service, including the registered provider, who is not service based. On the day of inspection, 29 adults were present in the service, including the manager, an administrative staff member, the maintenance person, a student and 3 kitchen staff. Sixteen staff were working directly with the children on the day of 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

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN3381	25/08/2026	The service provided evidence that four staff members held up to date First Aid Response (FAR) training but on review of the roster, it was noted that a staff member trained in first aid response was not immediately available to the children at all times.
Status	The registered provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventive actions, which were 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, 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.*

(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 had a designated person in charge and named deputies were also in place. This information was displayed in the main entrance area.

(b) The manager was working at the setting when the inspection commenced and was available throughout the inspection process. Review of the staff roster demonstrated that a person in charge was on site throughout the hours of operation.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

the person in charge, it was determined that 10 new staff members, including the registered provider had been employed since the previous inspection and 3 current staff had changed their roles. On the day of inspection, a student was also present on an educational work placement programme. A total of 14 files were assessed. In addition, Garda vetting for six adults, whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal, were requested for review.

- (a) There were 11 written and validated references on file from past employers.
- (b) Seventeen references had been provided by sources other than previous employers and had been validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the 20 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Three of the four required translated international police vetting's were available for review.

(4) A recognised award in early childhood care and education was held by nine adults who were employed to work directly with the early years children. Two adults held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
 - (a) (b) Two references available for one adult did not have evidence of validations available for review.
 - (d) While international police vetting disclosure was available for four adults, one vetting required translation.
- (3) The relevant checks were not carried out in respect of the one adult prior to them being assigned or allowed access to the children in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following response was received from the registered provider:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(a)(b) Two references are now validated. The service will ensure all future adults on placement have these documents. A pre-placement check list will be completed and signed before commencement of a placement in the service.
- (d) The police vetting has now been translated. Translation will be retained on file. This is now part of the pre-placement check list.
- (3) The file was reviewed and the outstanding requirements were addressed. A pre-placement check list is in place.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)(a)(b) Two references and telephone reference validation forms.
- (d) Translated documents.
- (3) Pre-commencement check list.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b)(d) and 9 (3).

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) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care of the children in attendance at all times.

(2) The service maintained the minimum ratio required as per regulation in the care rooms. The ratio was as follows:

- The Daisy room, there were 3 staff members caring for 10 children in the morning and 2 staff members caring for 6 children in the afternoon who were aged between 1 year and 2 years and 9 months.
- The Daffodil room, there were two staff members caring for six children in the morning and three staff members and a student caring for seven children in the afternoon who were aged between 1 year 11 months and 2 years and 4 months.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The Sunflower room, there were two staff members caring for two children in the morning who were aged between 2 years 3 months and 2 years and 7 months and the room was closed in the afternoon.
- The Lily room, there were three staff members caring for nine children in the morning and two staff members caring for five children in the afternoon who were aged between 3 years 7 months and 4 years and 7 months.
- The Bluebell Preschool, there were 3 staff members caring for 12 children in the morning and 2 staff members caring for 9 children in the afternoon who were aged between 2 years 5 months and 3 years and 8 months.
- The Naíonra Poípin, there were 3 staff members caring for 16 children in the morning and 2 staff members caring for 14 children in the afternoon who were aged between 3 years 9 months and 4 years and 4 months.
- The Naíonra Fiúise and Cactus room were used for school age care on the day of inspection.

(8) (a) The service operated with at least two adults present at all times. This was observed on the day of inspection and was evident through examination of the staff roster.

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

On the day of inspection, the following information was obtained through direct observation and discussion with the staff and examination of relevant documents.

Basic needs:

- The main meals were provided by the service, and snacks were provided by the parents and guardians. They were observed to be healthy and nutritious. A dinner menu was posted on notice boards in the service outlining the variety of menu options. Children were observed to have two hot meals in the day, meatballs, mixed vegetables and potatoes for dinner and fishfingers and spaghetti hoops for tea. Examples of snacks were yogurts, a variety of fruit, crackers and bread.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Drinks were available and accessible to the children in the care rooms throughout the day and children were observed to be offered water or milk.
- Staff interacted with the children during snack time and were observed helping and assisting the children where necessary.
- While outdoors, the children were noted to be dressed appropriately with coats when required.
- Appropriate seating was available in the form of low-level tables and chairs.
- Low-level open shelving units which displayed materials and resources were available in each care room which children could freely access.
- Outdoor play was promoted and observed at the time of inspection with the staff observing and assisting children during play. Each care room in the service availed of outdoor play.
- Nappy changing was carried out at regular intervals and as required. Each child's dignity and privacy were observed to be respected with one child being changed at a time. Supervision and assistance were provided for the children who accessed the sanitary facilities.
- Children were observed to sleep at various intervals in the Daisy room and children in the Daffodil and Sunflower room availed of sleep after dinner. Children who required sleep in the other care rooms were facilitated in the Daffodil room. Children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size vinyl sofas in each care room.

Supporting relationships:

- The staff were observed to lower down to floor level with the children and engage in play. Children were encouraged and praised in each of the care rooms during tasks in a warm and caring manner. For example, the staff were observed in all the six care rooms to sit on the floor or at the table with the children taking part in activities such as singing, reading, playing with a magic blanket, blocks and doctor sets.
- The atmosphere was observed to be relaxed in the care rooms at all times during the inspection and teamwork was evident between the staff and the children. A good relationship between the staff was seen in each of the care rooms, when staff members seamlessly assisted with tasks without needing instruction and were very clear about what needed to be done and how.
- Various methods of communication were used to link with parents and guardians such as through a digital application, email and communication at collection and drop off. Parents were observed to come to the door of the room to collect their children, and positive interactions were observed between parents/ guardians and the staff in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The children were encouraged to tidy up after tasks, self-serve drinks in a number of the care rooms which promoted a sense of responsibility. Children were observed to choose what to play with, which promoted independence and decision making.

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 to the service was secured. This restricted unauthorised access to the building and prevented the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- The windows in the care rooms were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children in the care rooms.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The toys and play equipment assessed were in good condition.
- The outdoor area was a safe and secure space for the children with a metal fencing surrounding the boundaries. This prevented children gaining unsupervised access to an unsafe area.

Infection control:

- Handwashing facilities were accessible to the children, and they were observed to wash their hands before eating, after using the sanitary facilities and after outdoor play.
- Children's bags were stored off the ground on hooks or on a shelf.
- Each care room had access to a refrigerator for the storage of perishable foods.
- During the nappy changing procedure, staff were observed to wear disposable aprons and gloves and hand washing was observed to be carried out.

Administration of medication:

- The staff present on the day informed the inspector that currently no child in the service was being administered regular medication.
- Temperature reducing medicines were observed to be in date and stored out of reach of the children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Safe sleep:

- The air temperature of the two designated sleep rooms was recorded at 19.9°C and 21.4 °C and two care rooms used for sleep were recorded at 22°C while children were sleeping at the time. The room temperatures were maintained at the required temperature of between 18°C and 22°C for children above 12 months.
- Staff in the care rooms where children slept were noted to maintain sleep records in relation to the children's colour, breathing and position at 10-minute intervals on a digital application. The inspector reviewed 10 sleep records, and these were found to be recorded correctly.

Fire safety:

- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.
- Fire extinguishers were secured to the walls.

Outing:

- On discussion with the person in charge, no regular outings occur. The preschool children have an outing yearly with a risk assessment completed prior to this occurring.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service.

(3)

(b) A daily record of visitors to the premises was kept in the care room. The inspector was requested to sign in and out from the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

- (2)
- (a) There was a first aid box in each of the six care rooms reviewed on inspection which were sufficiently stocked and available in the service. These were safely stored out of reach of children.
- (b) The first aid supplies were always accessible, should they be required.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) See statutory notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN3381 served.

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) Records of monthly fire drills were maintained on file. It was noted that the most recent fire drill was carried out on 17 July 2026.
- (b) A written list of the number and type of firefighting equipment was available. Maintenance records indicated that the firefighting equipment was serviced in September 2025 and the smoke alarms were tested on 24 July 2026.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) The fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed at the fire exits in each care room.