

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN020
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Drumlane Community Childcare CLG
-------------------------	----------------------------------

Address of Service:	Milltown, Milltown, Belturbet, Co. Cavan
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	H14 K224
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Bernard Burns
-------------------------------------	---------------

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

Date of Inspection:	18/08/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	21
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna
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

Drumlane Community Childcare CLG is a community-based not-for-profit Early Years service. Pre-school children are accommodated in the service, from the age of 1 to 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme during the hours of 9am to 12 midday, 38 weeks per year. The service operates from 8 am to 6 pm for 50 weeks per year, Monday to Friday, from a purpose-built 2-storey premises located on the outskirts of a small village in Co. Cavan. There are three care rooms, namely the Wobbler/Toddler room, Preschool 1 and Preschool 2. Designated sanitary accommodation is provided for each care room, and a sleep room adjoins the Wobbler/Toddler room. Ancillary accommodation includes a kitchen, dining room, staff facilities, office and storage rooms. The service has access to an enclosed outdoor play area which is accessed directly from the premises. In addition, they also have access to the spacious indoor community hall, community garden and play park, and GAA pitch with surrounding running track, all of which are located adjacent to the premises. School-aged childcare is provided. Car parking is provided to the front and side of the building.

Staffing

A total of fifteen staff is employed in the service, which includes a manager, a cook, an admin person, and 12 staff employed to work directly with the children, one of whom is employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) and two of whom also work with school-aged children. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

The scope of this inspection included 2 rooms, which were Wobbler/Toddler and Preschool 1.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

(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, who is the service manager and two named persons to deputise in their absence.

(b) Following discussion with the service manager, it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation, the designated person in charge or the named person in charge was on the premises.

(c) A management structure was in place, which was clearly identifiable through review of the staff roster and in discussion with the staff team.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection documentation plus information available on the inspection

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

and through discussion with the acting person in charge onsite; it was determined that 2 new staff members had been employed since the last inspection. The references on file for 13 staff were compliant upon the service's last inspection; therefore, they were not reviewed upon this inspection.

(a) (b) Of the 2 new staff files, a total of 4 written and validated references from a previous employer were on file.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all 15 employed staff.

(d) Employment records of 13 staff employed were reviewed at the service's last inspection and regulatory compliance was achieved; therefore, they were not reviewed upon this inspection.

A review of the employment history for the 2 newly employed staff demonstrated that one adult had lived outside the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months. The one police vetting certificate was available on file as required.

(4) Documentary evidence reviewed at the last inspection for 11 childcare staff, and upon this inspection for 2 childcare staff, confirmed that the 13 staff employed to work directly with children held an appropriate childcare qualification at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications. A qualification for the cook and admin person is not required as they are not employed to work with preschool children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained so throughout the inspection. The following adult to child ratios were observed:

- Two adults cared for 10 children aged 1 year 2 months to 2 years 11 months in the Wobbler/Toddler Room, all of whom attended on a part-time or full-day care basis.
- Two adults cared for 14 children aged 3 years to 4 years 6 months in the Preschool 1 Room, one of whom attended for an introductory hour, one in attendance on a sessional basis, and 12 in attendance on a part-time or full-day care basis.

The service manager covered breaks in the Wobbler/Toddler room and was rostered to cover in Preschool 2 in the late afternoon.

(8) A review of the staff roster demonstrated that the registered provider ensured that a minimum of 2 adults were present on the premises during operating hours.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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
- (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

The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and well-being were facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs

Snacks and meal times were observed to be unrushed. Children were given adequate time to finish their food and drinks. Staff helped to feed younger children where needed and independence was encouraged for older children to feed themselves. Meal times were used as social occasions where staff engaged in conversations with the children. The younger children had their nappies changed in line with their daily routine, and the older children in the Wobbler/Toddler room who were toilet trained were provided with gentle reminders to use the toilet. The children in Preschool 1 were observed to use the sanitary areas independently. Younger children wore bibs at meal times, and had their faces cleaned promptly afterwards. Spare clothing was available for younger children, along with rainproof clothing for outdoor play and hi-visibility vests for outings. Rest areas were provided in the care rooms which included soft mats, cushions and teddies. The children in all care rooms experienced outdoor play in the designated outdoor area on more than one occasion during the inspection. The children appeared familiar with those who cared for them and were observed to explore their indoor and outdoor environments with confidence.

Communication with parents is in person at arrival and collection, and also through the use of a digital application.

Supporting Relationships

The atmosphere upon the inspectors' arrival into the care rooms and outdoor area was warm and welcoming. The children in the Wobbler/Toddler room were transitioning back from having their mid-morning snack, and the children in Preschool 1 were enjoying time in the outdoors. As children were settling into the Wobbler/Toddler and Preschool 1 rooms, the daily routine was a little more relaxed, with staff advising that the focus is on the children exploring their new surroundings and settling in, so a relaxed routine following the children's lead is in

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

place during these transition periods. Staff demonstrated awareness of the children within their care in relation to the children's likes and interests, and also through conversations with them about their recent holidays. The service works in partnership with parents and follows requests from parents regarding their children's routine, dietary requirements and individual care needs. The staff team and management were observed to work well together. The staff kept the children informed of what was happening next in their daily routine. Younger children demonstrated awareness of their daily routine; for example, when they came in from outside, they sat on the floor mats to take their shoes off for their bedtime.

Physical And Material Environment

The care rooms were bright, welcoming, and well-resourced. The rooms were laid out into designated interest areas to include but not limited to home corners, dress-up and role-play equipment, tabletop activities, jigsaws, blocks, office role-play, dolls and play equipment, construction areas and sensory play areas. The room walls had children's family photos, birthday charts and photos of children at play on display, and the rooms were laid out well to allow for free movement of children between activities and play areas. Activities such as sand play, playdough, floor play with small world toys and colouring were set up in the Preschool 1 room, and children, when finished in one area, would request to move to another area, which was facilitated. The staff in Preschool 1 were observed to sit with the children during the activities, while also ensuring the children at other play areas received supports where needed, such as extra pages for colouring. The Wobblers/Toddlers played freely across their playroom, with materials accessible on low-level shelves which were suitable for the age of children in the room. A smaller designated area was provided with soft mats and pull-up toys for younger children to be able to explore and begin to learn to stand and walk. While the Wobblers/Toddler used the outdoor area, a soft blanket was placed on the ground for the use of younger children not fully mobile, where staff were observed to sit and play on the blanket with the younger children. The outdoor area included ride-on and push-along toys, plants, tyres, a play kitchen, construction area and a wooden bus. The outdoor area is partly covered, allowing for outdoor play in inclement weather conditions, along with the use of the children's wetsuits.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service provides all food daily to children in attendance. A copy of a 3-week rolling menu was available which detailed the morning snack served approx. 9.40 am, the hot meal served at 12.30 and 1 pm, and the afternoon snack served to the children at approx. 3 pm, all of which is prepared daily by the cook.

Morning snack on the day of inspection was cereal, dinner was spaghetti bolognese with vegetables, and the afternoon snack was ham wraps with cheese and yoghurt.

A pre-breakfast snack and a later afternoon snack are also available to children who attend early morning or late afternoon, and where parents may request additional snacks for their children.

The hot meals listed on the menu, while taking into consideration the age of children, provided a suitable, nutritious and varied choice for children. Meals can be adjusted to suit younger children's needs where required. The cook advised the inspector that additional food items are available, should a child have insufficient amounts of their age and the time spent in the service on a particular day.

The children can also avail of food or drinks outside of scheduled meal times if their routine or needs require this. Where children have specific dietary requirements or allergies, the cook explained how they cater for and provided for any request from parents regarding allergies or dietary requirements.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 registered provider ensured all reasonable measures were put in place to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending such as:

The main entrance door was secured by a magnetic release lock, and the outdoor area was secured by high-level fencing and secured gates in order to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The play materials and equipment used by the children were maintained in good condition. Daily risk assessments are conducted in the indoor and outdoor areas, and no risks or hazards were observed on the day of inspection. The kitchen, laundry and storage areas were inaccessible to the children. Handrails for children and staff were in good condition. Floor coverings were presented in a good state of repair. External waste bins were stored in an area inaccessible to children. Cleaning materials were stored on high-level shelving. Fire exits remained free from obstruction during the inspection.

Infection Control:

The inspector observed the following infection control measures in practice within the service:

Thermostatically controlled warm running water to a maximum of 35.6°C, liquid soap, paper towels and foot-operated bins were provided at each wash hand basin. Hand washing was observed in practise after children used the toilet, had their nappies changed, and after playing with sand. Nappy changing procedures were carried out in line with the service's infection control procedures, with a disposable apron and gloves used for each nappy change. Sanitary areas are ventilated by mechanical ventilation or openable windows. Cleaning records were maintained, and the service was presented in a clean and hygienic manner. Children's soothers were stored individually and washed and sterilised daily after use.

Safe Sleep:

A sleep room was provided for children aged 2 years and under. Six cots with waterproof safety mattresses, individual sheets and cellular blankets were observed in use. A viewing panel was in place between the sleep room and Wobbler/Toddler care room. Sleep checks were maintained for all sleeping children, to include the

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

child's name, room temperature, sleeping position, skin colour, breathing pattern and staff signature. Records reviewed demonstrated that 10-minute checks were carried out.

In addition to the cot room, stackable beds and suitable bedding were set up in the Wobbler/Toddler room after dinner for sleep time.

The children in the Wobbler/Toddler room and Preschool 1 room aged over 2 years were observed to sleep on stackable beds. Staff members remained with the children during sleep times, while completing 10-minute checks on all sleeping children.

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-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

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

Compliance Information

(1) The service uses written records which detail each child's arrival and departure time on a daily basis.

(3) (a) The registered provider ensured that only preschool children, a person dropping off or collecting a preschool child, an employee or unpaid worker can enter the premises upon the approval of staff.

(b) A visitor log book is maintained. The inspector was requested to sign in upon arrival.

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

(1) The registered provider ensured that a person who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. Eleven staff members held in-date FAR training.

(2) (a) & (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available on the premises, in each of the care rooms and were stored in accessible and conspicuous locations out of the reach of children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) A record of the monthly fire drills that take place was available. The most recent fire drill was recorded on 14 August 2026.
- (b) The annual maintenance certificate for the fire extinguishers was dated 15 October 2025, and the smoke alarms were dated 04 June 2026.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed on walls throughout the service, which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.

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

On the day of the inspection, the inspector observed the staff members appropriately supervising the children in attendance. In all care rooms, staff members worked well together, ensuring that they were positioned to supervise all children in the care room. Similarly in the outdoors, staff members positioned themselves strategically to ensure all children were in sight at all times. Staff were aware of children's presence in the care rooms and during transitions; for example, staff in the Wobbler/Toddler room were observed to place themselves at the front and the back of the line of children when they were moving from the dining room back to the care room, and when staff covered breaks in Preschool 1 room they checked with the staff regarding the number of children present. At mealtimes, staff members sat with the children, offering supports while also promoting independence. Independence was encouraged at toileting, where older children in Preschool 1 used sanitary areas located across the hallway from their care room. While children slept, staff members remained with the sleeping children at all times.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had insurance cover in place for up to 70 pre-school children attending the service on a full day care basis. The policy showed that the service had insurance in place from 28 March 2026 to 27 March 2027.