

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL028
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Blakestown and Mountview NYP Creche
-------------------------	-------------------------------------

Address of Service:	Shelerin Road, Clonsilla, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D15 VYC0
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Geagan
-------------------------------------	-------------

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

Date of Inspection:	05/08/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	5
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte
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

Blakestown and Mountview NYP Creche is a sessional and part-time service which is located in North Dublin and provides a service to children aged between 2 and 6 years old. The service is open from Monday to Friday, with a morning session from 9:00am-1.00pm and afternoon session between 1:00 and 4:35pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) programme for 38 weeks of the year. There are two care rooms: Room 1 and Room 2. Room 1 offers both a morning and afternoon ECCE sessions, Room 2 provides a morning ECCE session and an afternoon service for school-aged children from 1:30 to 4:30pm. During the summer, when the ECCE programme is not in operation, the preschool children and school aged children are combined for afternoon activities. On the day of the inspection Room 2 was closed. The service is located on the ground floor of a community project building and has a large outdoor play area.

Staffing

There are currently 15 adults working within the service. This includes the person in charge, deputy person in charge, two reception staff, one house keeping staff member and five early years professionals. There are five adults who are solely employed under the Community Employment (CE) programme. Of these five adults one person is in maintenance role. On the day of the inspection there were 14 adults present.

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, safety, premises and facilities. 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*

(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,*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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) The registered provider ensured that;

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) Documentary evidence showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service the day of inspection.

(2) A review of paperwork and discussion with management showed that eight adults have been employed since the last inspection; their full files were reviewed. The qualification of one person who was previously engaged with the service through the community employment scheme was also reviewed. A review of records maintained by Tusla demonstrated that all existing staff held in date garda vetting disclosures. The registered provider had completed the following checks:

- (a) Nine written references were available from past employers. Six had been validated.
- (b) Seven written were available from a source other than a past employer. Six had been validated
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for eight adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for six adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.

(4) Evidence was available to show that four adults who worked directly with the children held 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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Non-Compliance Information

- (3) The registered provider did not ensure that the checks required under (2) were completed in advance of the start date of three adults. Full documented checks must be completed prior to a person commencing in order to establish they are appropriate to have access to children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All references have been reviewed to ensure that the required telephone verification is completed and documented. A procedure has been put in place to ensure that all references are verified by telephone and documented prior to commencement. The Tusla Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment Table has been added to each staff file and will be used to ensure that reference verification is completed and documented prior to commencement.

Supporting documentation submitted

None

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 has been addressed.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured there was adequate staff available to the children at all times during the day for example 5 qualified staff were working directly with 15 children on the morning of inspection. The person in charge was supernumerary and available to provide support in the care rooms as needed.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

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-
- (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 following practices were observed in place to support the children attending:
- A footstep was available in the sanitary area to promote self-care skills and assist with hand washing.
 - Staff assisted children with toileting as necessary.
 - Mealtime was a relaxed experience, and children were given ample time to enjoy their food joined by peers and staff. Drinks were present during mealtime.
 - Staff advised that during term time meals are supplied through the Bia Blasta pre-school nutrition programme and during the summer meals are supplied from home.
 - Children were given guidance on upcoming transitions and what will happen next.
 - Children's comfort was supported by assisting with the cleaning of faces following mealtime and removal of heavy clothing layers.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture and equipment available, for example:

- The furniture and equipment in the care room and outdoor area was observed to be adequate for the number of children, it was appropriate for the age range and stage of development of the children, durable and easy to clean.
- The toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving, visible to the children, and were easily accessible.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children according to their age and stage of development, which facilitated a range of play experiences including imaginative and sensory play.
- The care room included a rest area in the event children chose to take a break from activities.
- The outdoor environment was resourced with a range of equipment to promote gross motor play such as climbing structures, a swing and ride on bikes. The area included areas for children to sit and engage in activities while playing outdoors.

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 service entrance was secure when the inspector arrived unannounced. An additional internal door off reception was also securely closed, and staff attended the door to allow access to the care rooms. This helped prevent unauthorised persons from accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Staff were observed to conduct head counts as children transitioned from the indoor and outdoor areas.
- Finger pinch protectors were present on doors.
- Small fruits included in children's lunches were observed appropriately sliced.
- The kitchen door was observed to be closed throughout the day of inspection.

Infection Control:

- Cleaning records were completed for indoor and outdoor spaces.
- The nappy changing mat was clean and suitable for use.
- Children's nappy changing supplies were stored in individual cubbies.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed.
- Attendance records were reflective of children present on the day. Staff were observed to promptly sign children out when collected. This supported safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Outing:

- On the morning of the inspection children attended the local park. Staff demonstrated how they bring a roll book, accident record book and staff phone on outings in the event they are required.
- Discussion with management and a review of available paperwork confirmed the presence of a FAR trained person on the morning outing.
- The service had signed permission from parents/guardians for the outing and a risk assessment for the outing was available for review in the office.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The foot pedal on the bin in room 1 was damaged and posed an injury risk to children.
- The green standalone slide in the outdoor play area was damaged with rust exposed and posed a potential injury risk to children.

Infection Control:

- The press door on the play kitchen unit in room 1 was damaged with chipboard exposed. This posed an infection control risk.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The damaged bin in Room 1 was removed and replaced immediately with a new, fully functioning bin. Ongoing risk assessments and safety checks will continue to ensure damaged equipment is identified and replaced promptly.
- The damaged standalone slide, which showed signs of rust and posed a potential safety risk, was removed from use and disposed of immediately. A new all weather, durable slide has been ordered to replace it. Regular risk assessments and outdoor equipment safety checks will continue to ensure any deterioration or damage is identified and addressed promptly.

Infection Control:

- The damaged press door on the play kitchen unit in Room 1, which had exposed chipboard and posed an infection control risk, was removed immediately. There is now no exposed chipboard, and the unit is safe for use. A risk assessment has been completed. Regular risk assessments and equipment safety checks will continue to ensure any damage is identified and addressed promptly to prevent future infection control risks.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

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) A review of available documentation demonstrated that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available to the children attending the service during the operational hours the week of the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that:
- (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises.
 - (b) The first aid box was easily accessible and readily available.