

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015GY040 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Bright Beginnings Childcare |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Danesfort Drive, Loughrea, Co. Galway |
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|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | H62 NN97 |
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|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Sarah Lyons |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day Care |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 02/07/2026 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 26 | PM | 26 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate,<br>Quality and Regulations Directorate,<br>Clinical & Administration Building,<br>Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor),<br>Merlin Park,<br>Co. Galway. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | S. Meehan.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | 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

Bright Beginnings Childcare service is in a private residential area called Danesfort drive, located in the town of Loughrea, Co Galway. The service offers a full day care programme from 8 am to 6 pm, from Monday to Friday, which caters for children aged between 0 and 6 years of age. The service also offers a part time and sessional service operates between 9 am and 6 pm. There are 4 playrooms which include a Wobbler room, Toddler room and Preschool room on the ground floor. Rest areas are provided in each of the playrooms to facilitate children to rest or relax during the day. The service also has 2 designated sleep rooms with a total of 10 cots for children less than 2 years of age to sleep. Additionally, there are 10 stackable beds for children over 2 years of age. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals for children are prepared by the cook and there is also a staff office. The outdoor play area is located at the back of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider was the person in charge and a manager was also available. There is a total of 12 adults currently working on the premises which includes the registered provider, manager and a cook working in the kitchen.

### 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 registered provider, manager, 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,*

# 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.*

*(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 registered provider ensured that there was a named designated person in charge. There was a named person who could deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(c) A clear management structure was in place detailing who was in charge and various roles and responsibilities of the adults.

There were no new adults working in the service since the last inspection on the 25 July 2024:

(2)(a)(b)(d) The service was compliant with this part of the Regulations on the last inspection and there are no new adults employed in the service.

(c) On review of the 12 adult garda vetting disclosures, only 1 adult required renewed garda vetting within the three-years and this was available. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.

(4) The registered provider ensured that all adults working directly with children had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education; the 12 adults had at least a minimum of a level 5.

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 – Staffing levels

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children on the day.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to.  
There were 10 adults working directly with 26 children in the morning and 10 adults working with 26 children in the afternoon.
- (8)(a) Documentary evidence on the roster indicated that at least two adults were on the premises when the pre-school was operating.

### 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*

#### Compliance Information

19(1)(a)

#### Basic Needs

- The children were observed to move freely in the play rooms and had a change of environment to the outdoor play areas. The children were dressed appropriately to go outside.
- The toilet trained children were encouraged to be independent with toileting and supervision was also provided by adults as required.
- Handwashing reminders were also given to the children by adults, after toileting, outdoor play and before meals.
- There were seven children in nappies and these were changed at regular intervals and in a timely manner.

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

- Bibs were available at mealtimes and messy play for children.
- The afternoon snacks were provided by the parents and stored appropriately in the fridge. The morning snack consisted of crackers, cheese, apple, banana and rice cakes. The main hot meal of the day was fish fingers, mash and beans.
- Children had free access to their drinks and water stations that were available in the rooms.
- Children had access to 2 designated sleep rooms with 10 cots for children under 2 years of age. Stackable beds, 10 in total, were available for children over 2 years of age. When children were put down to sleep physical sleep checks were carried out every 10 minutes by the adults and documented.
- Soft seating was provided in each of the play rooms for children to rest or take time out during the day from activities.
- Tables and chairs were available and were appropriate for the age and stage of the development of the children.

### Programme of Activities and its Implementation:

- Each child had a detailed learning journal showing their art and crafts, themes and development for the year.
- A key person system was in place for each child to support their development and to inform curriculum planning. The role of the key person was to liaise with parents and guardians, conduct observations to support each child's developmental needs.
- The theme of the week was 'The Jungle' and children were involved in making masks of jungle animals and reading stories about jungle animals. Children also made a collage together of what animal they wanted to include in the jungle.
- Transitions between activities were well planned by adults and were carried out in a calm and relaxed environment. Good communication between adults in planning activities was observed.
- The service programme of activity and curriculum which was in place supported the individual needs of each child in line with their age and stage of development. The curriculum was based on models of best practice in early childhood education.
- The activities observed were both adult and child led, both indoors and outdoors with an emphasis on the children's emerging interests, wellbeing and development.

# 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 service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid responder for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Two adults had first aid responder with an in-date certificate.
- (2)(a) The two first aid boxes were easily accessible and stored in conspicuous positions in the service.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped with all contents within expiry dates and were available while the children were attending the pre-school service.

### 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 written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 09 June 2026.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service date 02 March 2026. The smoke and fire detection alarm system had the last annual service date on the 06 January 2026.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire on the premises.