

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DS024
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Name of Service:	StartBright Greenhills
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Address of Service:	Bancroft Avenue, Greenhills Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 K248
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Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine McQuillan
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	08/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	9
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Early O'Brien & H. Bourke.
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

StartBright Greenhills is one of seven not-for-profit early years services operated by StartBright Early Learning Centres CLG. The service operates from two prefabricated buildings on the grounds of St Mary's primary school in Tallaght, Dublin 24. Children aged two to six years are accommodated on a sessional, part-time or full-day basis between 8:00 and 18:00. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme between 9:00 and 12:00.

Staffing

There are 19 staff employed by the service including the person in charge, an administrator, a caretaker and a cleaner. Sixteen staff are employed to work directly with the pre-school children and on the day of inspection four were present. The registered provider also employs a Quality Mentor who works across the company's seven services. The registered provider does not work directly with the children and was not present 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, safety and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

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Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(3)(4) - Management and recruitment,
Regulation 11 (1)(2) - Staffing levels,
Regulation 15(1) – Record in Relation to a Pre-School Child,
Regulation 19 (1)(b) - Health, welfare and development of child,
Regulation 21 – Equipment and Materials,
Regulation 22 – Food and Drink,
Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,
Regulation 28 – Insurance.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-School Child.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN3642	08/07/2026	On the morning of inspection, the room temperature in the Starlight room consistently exceeded the recommended safe room temperatures of 18°C to 22°C. The temperatures were recorded as follows: 11:29 – 24.5°C 11:40 - 28°C 11:50- 26.9°C 11:55 – 26.7°C
Status	Action was taken immediately by the person in charge following service of the Notice and the person in charge 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*
- (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*

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(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 centre manager is the designated person in charge of the service and there is a named person appointed to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy manager was present and in charge of the service throughout the inspection.

(2)

Upon review of the staff roster and staff files, it was identified that there were three new staff members employed to work in the service since the last inspection on 21 January 2025. All staff files were reviewed in relation to regulation 9(2)(c).

Documentation was reviewed in respect of three adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a) Of the six validated, written references that were required, five were available from a past employer.

(b) Of the six validated, written references that were required, one was available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for 19 staff members demonstrating that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff.

(d) Police vetting was not required as there was no evidence to suggest that any staff member had lived outside of the State for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(3)

The records outlined in regulation 9(2) above were dated prior to the commencement date of employment of the adults in the service.

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(4)

Records were available demonstrating that all adults employed to work directly with the children since the last inspection held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. On the day of inspection there were 11 children attending the Starlight room being supervised by four adults on the morning of inspection and nine children being supervised by three adults in the afternoon.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

While it is acknowledged that a sample of nine children's registration forms were reviewed, only one form was completed as required by the regulation.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

Following a review of a sample of nine children's registration forms, the following was found to be non-compliant on the day of inspection:

- One child's record had not been documented in line with the regulation above.
- One child's record documented three different dates of birth for the child.
- Five children's records did not detail evidence of immunisation records for each child.

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- One child's record did not have written consent from parents to administer anti-febrile medication in the event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

To correct the non-compliances identified on inspection, the files have been reviewed and all missing information gathered to ensure all files are complete to meet compliance. Roll books to be signed off by room leader when set up at beginning of term to ensure all dates of birth and parent contact details are correct to coincide with accident report details. A checklist has been completed and signed by admin/manager and added to each child's file.

To prevent a re-occurrence of this non-compliance, all files to be checked by admin and to be signed off by manager prior to the induction of the child to the centre. Only when all information gathered will the child be considered for a place at Startbright.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of a checklist to be included on each child's file.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform the next 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)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed to be in place in the Starlight room on the day of inspection. In their interactions with the children, the adults were respectful and actively listened to the ideas, opinions and needs of each child. All adults were familiar with the names, ages and family members of each child. They reported on the likes and interests of the children within the care rooms, and these interests were reflected in the resources and materials available to the children such as the connectors which the children used to construct in collaborative play with the educator supporting and scaffolding this. Children had time to engage in

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this play and the freedom to move to other activities. The routine of the day was observed to be child led and children were visibly content and engaged in play during the inspection.

Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. Drinks of water were available within the room and were offered regularly. Staff addressed children by name and spoke to them in gentle positive tones. Children were comforted promptly if they became upset.

An area with matting and cushions was provided within the care room where the children were observed to rest with a book or take a break from activities.

Staff reported that children could be accommodated to sleep if they displayed signs of tiredness with floor beds available if required. No child was observed to sleep on the day of inspection. The environment was calm with staff sitting with the children at their level both at snack-time and in play. Staff reported they communicate daily with parents regarding individual children's care.

The children were observed to go outside for a period of time in the afternoon of inspection and were dressed appropriately for the weather with suncream applied and drinking water available.

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 tables and chairs provided in the service were suitable for the age and stage of development of the children in the Starlight room.

A sufficient amount of materials for the number of children attending were available on low level shelving and were observed to be easily accessible to the children. The children were observed to have autonomy in leading their play choices without the direction of the adults.

The play equipment and materials were observed to be durable and easy to clean.

The equipment available included jigsaws, floor play toys, small world houses and garages with people, cars, tractors and animals provided opportunities for solitary and group play opportunities. Construction toys, and sensory toys were among the large array of materials available in addition to mark-making resources such as crayons, markers, paints and glue.

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The presence of a family wall display and children's artwork demonstrated a sense of identity and belonging for the children.

The outdoor area and the equipment and materials available provided appropriate learning opportunities for the children based on their age and stage of development. On the day of inspection, the children were observed to have an opportunity to play outdoors and were adequately dressed for the weather.

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 had a healthy eating policy in place. All meals and snacks were provided by the service and prepared onsite. On the day of inspection, children's snack time consisted of toast with cheese and/or chicken, depending on preference and dietary requirements, banana, orange and cucumber. Additional portions were provided where children requested more food. Children's drink bottles were available to them throughout the session. Children were supported and encouraged to be independent in opening and closing bottles. Support was promptly offered to those children who required assistance.

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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 door into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The person in charge had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environment was safe and free from hazards.
- Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.
- Medication, which is only administered in an emergency, was stored safely and out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate handwashing for staff and children in the sanitary area adjoining the care room.
- Foot pedal bins were available throughout the service for the safe disposal of used hand towels and other waste products.
- Tables were observed by the inspector to be cleaned before and after snack time.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN3642 served.

Infection Control:

2. The changing mat in the sanitary area adjacent to the Starlight room was torn and the mat could not be effectively cleaned posing as a risk of cross contamination.
3. The nappy changing unit was visibly chipped and worn, which prevented effective cleaning of equipment for infection control purposes.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Due to the high temperature in the rooms on the day the immediate action was issued, four fans were hired to ensure that the room temperature did not exceed the required level of 18-22 degrees (as it did on the day). These were required to provide a safe and comfortable temperature for a safe environment for the children.

While monitoring the daily temperatures as per the services daily risk sheets, a risk assessment on high temperatures will be carried out during periods of extreme heat to ensure adequate and prompt corrective actions are taken to hire equipment needed to ensure temperatures are maintained and that staff are fully aware of the procedure to prevent reoccurrence

Infection Control:

A new nappy changing mat was purchased and the nappy changing area full painted. A daily checklist now includes the checking of the mat and area to ensure all is in order.

The checking of the mat has been added to the daily safety checklist and signed off daily by staff. A spare mat has been purchased to ensure infection control is not an issue for the future. All safety checklists will be signed off by the services health and safety officer monthly.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence of the fans in situ in the service.

Documentary evidence of receipt for hire of fans for the service.

Documentary evidence of a revised risk assessment sheet to include a review of room temperatures daily and for extreme heat periods.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of the repainted nappy changing area and new changing mat.

Documentary evidence of the revised risk assessment and daily safety checklist.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform the next inspection.

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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 a certificate of insurance for a full day care service for 80 children which is due to expire on 20 March 2027.