

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019MH005
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Hi-5 Childcare
-------------------------	----------------

Address of Service:	Brackrainey Manor, Enfield Road, Longwood, Co. Meath
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	A83 H019
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Andreia Nascimento Bittencourt
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------

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

Date(s) of Inspection:	10/08/2026
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	12
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	D.Murray
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

Hi-5 Childcare is a privately owned childcare facility which provides full day care, part-time and sessional care to pre-school children from 0 to 6 years. A school aged service is also provided. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) and operates from 7.30am to 6.30pm.

The premises is purpose build consisting of the following rooms:

The **Cocoon room** facilitates the care of children from 1 to 2 years 7 months.

The **Caterpillar room** provides care for children from 2 years 8 months to 5 years. During the pre-school year this room provides ECCE programme from 9:00am to 12:00am.

The **Butterfly room** caters for children from 2 years 8 months to 5 years. During the pre-school year this room provides ECCE programme from 9:00am to 12:00am and facilitates the pre-school children staying for full day care. This room was closed on the day of the inspection.

School Aged room.

Other facilities include an office, kitchen, and sanitary facilities.

A large outdoor space is located to the rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider employs a manager, deputy person in charge ,12 childcare staff and a chef. 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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Discussion with relevant staff

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 deputy 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*

(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 and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy person in charge was present on the morning of the inspection.

(2) (a)&(b) On discussion with the deputy person in charge and review of the staff roster it was confirmed that there were five new staff members. The remainder of the staff files were reviewed at the last inspection and meet regulatory compliance.

There were 10 validated written references available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the 5 staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as no staff member had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) All childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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 morning of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service. There was the deputy person in charge and 2 staff members providing care to 12 pre-school children. Two additional staff members commenced work from 11:00hrs to 6:30 hrs and from 12:00hrs to 6:30pm.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

The **Cocoon** room had 2 adults providing care to 7 pre -school children ranging in age from 1 to 2 years all attending on a full day care basis. An additional staff member commenced work in this room from 11:00hrs to 6:30pm.

The **Caterpillar** room had 1 adult providing care to 5 pre-school children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 5 years all attending on a full day care basis. There were also 7 school aged children in this room. An additional staff member commenced work into this room from 12:00hrs to 6:30pm.

The **Butterfly** room was closed on the day of the inspection.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic Needs of the Infants and Children:

- Staff members were observed changing children's nappies regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions observed. The older children were encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, hand washing, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.
- The service embraces outdoor play and learning. Children had direct access from their care rooms to their allocated outdoor area. Children were observed enjoying sensory/messy play, free play and role play with their peers and staff members.
- The staff members sat and chatted with the children at mealtimes, helping the children when required whilst encouraging and supporting language development.
- Children who availed of a nap were placed to sleep at the service's designated sleep time after dinner.
- Children sought out staff members who readily acknowledged and encouraged the children's efforts and accomplishments.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The adult's demonstrated knowledge of the individual care needs of the children. Children were comforted and cuddled when they became upset with the staff adopting behavioural management strategies such as speaking to the child softly and promoting turn taking and sharing. Challenging behaviour when presented was dealt with in a calm and caring manner and the children responded well to distraction and re-direction.
- Engagement with families and parents was facilitated by the daily sharing of information at drop off and collection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

- (1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises,

Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The room off the Cocoon room was used to facilitated cots for the younger children requiring sleep. The older children were placed to sleep on stackable beds in the Cocoon room. Within the care rooms there were mats and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest, if needed.
- (3)(a) The outdoor space to the rear of the premises was enclosed by walls and railings with 2 secured gates. This area was divided into 3 spaces by fencing and had a combination of grass and a soft tiled surface. Two partially sheltered areas and an enclosed sand area permitted outdoor play in all types of weather.

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 care rooms had areas of interest with supporting equipment art and crafts and a range of suitable toys and books which were easily accessible on open shelving.
- The grass outdoor area had an activity unit with swings and a slide, climbing frame, tyres, ride on tractors and an indoor sand pit.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Non-Compliance Information

1. In the outdoor area off the Cocoon room the following was observed:
 - The wooden mud kitchen had no play equipment.
 - The sand table had no sand.
2. In the partially sheltered area in the large grass space the following was observed:
 - The wooden kitchen and the doll's house had no play equipment.
 - The sand table had no sand.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The mud kitchen has been removed and replaced with other play equipment.

The sand tables have been filled with sand.

The wooden kitchen and the doll's house now have play equipment.

Going forward, all outdoor play equipment, toys and resources will be reviewed regularly to ensure they are age-appropriate, safe, clean, accessible and suitable for the children using them.

Staff will monitor the suitability and condition of equipment during daily checks and will report any concerns promptly. Any items identified as unsuitable will be removed or replaced as necessary.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the following:

Additional play and supporting equipment in the outdoor areas.

Sand in the sand tables.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances. The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

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 had a 3-week menu plan with a variety of food ranging from meat, poultry and fish all prepared onsite by the cook. On the day of inspection breakfast was served between 07:30 and 08:30am consisting of a choice of cereals. A morning snack was served at 11am consisting of sandwiches for the older children and scrambled eggs and brown bread for the younger children. Dinner was served at 2pm which was spaghetti bolognese and garlic bread. An afternoon snack of homemade scones and fruit was served at 4pm. Water was the drink of choice. Additional snacks were available for the children who remained in the service up to closing time if required.

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 following safety measures were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- The entrance doors and garden gates were secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The water temperature in the hot taps did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- Indoor and outdoor risk assessments were carried out and documented on a risk assessment sheet.

Safe Sleep:

The following safe sleep practices were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- The temperature of the Cocoon room used for sleep and the area off this room where the cots were assembled was maintained between 18 to 22°C while children were sleeping.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- A sleep log was available to record the position, colour and breathing pattern on all sleeping children at 10 minutes intervals.
- Children sleeping on stackable beds were supervised at all times.

Fire Safety:

The following fire safety measures were observed:

- Fire drills were conducted on a monthly basis.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

The following were observed on the day of the inspection which posed a cross-contamination infection control risk:

1. In the nappy changing area off the Cocoon room, the nappy changing mat was dirty with visible dirt seen along the seams of the mat. The wooden frame underneath the mat was also dirty with particles of dirt gathered in the corners.
2. In the outdoor space off the Cocoon room the following were observed:
 - The blue and yellow ride on bus, ride on dog, train and table were visibly dirty with dirt embedded into the toys and table.
 - In the Caterpillar room a white chair had dirty stains all over it.
 - In the children's sanitary area, the pedal bin was broken, and the lid had to be lifted by hand.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The Nappy changing area and changing mat have been thoroughly cleaned and the wall behind the changing mat has been painted.

A cleaning schedule is in place which staff must adhere to on a daily basis.

2. In the outdoor space, the ride on toys and table have been removed.

The white chair in the Caterpillar room has also been removed.

The bin in the sanitary area has been replaced with a new pedal operated bin.

Staff will monitor the suitability and condition of equipment during daily checks and will remove or replace equipment as needed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the following:

Wall in the nappy changing area painted.

Toys and table removed in the outdoor space.

White chair removed from the Caterpillar room.

New pedal bin.

Purchase receipt for additional play equipment and materials.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances. The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

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 had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

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 written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 27/07/2026.
- (b) A record was maintained of the mains powered smoke alarms and firefighting equipment on the premises. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 23/01/2026. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in 30/01/2026.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 48 children at any one time attending for full day care. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2026 to the 27/03/2027.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required.*

Non-Compliance Information

1. The following furniture had paint chipped and posed a splinter risk:
 - In the Cocoon room and in the partially sheltered outdoor area off this room the white presses for the storage of toy boxes.
 - In the Caterpillar room the surface area of the cover of the sand table.
2. The paint was chipped on the walls in the following areas which did not provide a smooth surface for cleaning:
 - The entrance hall.
 - The Caterpillar room.
 - The door into the Caterpillar room.
 - The wall over the nappy changing mat in the nappy changing room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1.All furniture that had paint chipped has been discarded.

All toys, furniture and equipment will be checked on a regular basis to ensure that all items are clean, safe and in good condition. Staff are reminded to monitor the condition of toys and equipment during daily checks and to report any concerns to management. Any items that are damaged, worn or cannot be cleaned effectively are removed from use and replaced as required.

2.The service has been painted. Management will continue to review the condition of the setting and arrange maintenance or painting as required to ensure the environment remains suitable and welcoming for the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the following:

White press and sand table removed.

Walls and doors painted.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances. The response received has been reviewed and accepted.