

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025LD001
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Name of Service:	Wiggles and Giggles
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Address of Service:	School Land, Ballinalee, Co. Longford
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Eircode:	N39 C7K2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aoife McGauran, Ciara Gilna
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	25/08/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan
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

Wiggles and Giggles provides full day, part-time and sessional childcare and education for children aged 2 to 6 years of age.

The hours of operation are between 8:00am - 18:00 hours Monday - Friday.

The service is located in a refurbished change of use building located beside but separate from, one of the registered providers own residence on the outskirts of Ballinalee, Co. Longford. There is one large care room, sanitary facilities and storage space available. There is a secured spacious outdoor play area at the front of the proposed premises.

Staffing

Three adults are employed in the service. All adults including the registered providers were working in the service on the day of the inspection. All adults have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education as per the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9(2), (4) - Management and Recruitment.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Regulation 11(1)(2)(8)(a) - Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) - Health Welfare and Development of Child.
- Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.
- Regulation 24 – Checking in and out and record of attendance.
- Regulation 25 – First Aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety.
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.

however, on inspection additional non-compliances were identified under:

- Regulation 16 (1)(i) - Record of a pre-school service.
- Regulation 20(1)(a), (b) – Facilities for rest and play
- Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials.
- Regulation 22 – Food and drink.

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.

Additional Information

1. A written referral was made to an external quality development service on the 25 August 2026.
2. A written referral was sent to the Environmental Health Office on 26 August 2026.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers, staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that one adult had been employed since the previous inspection. The file of the adult was reviewed.

(2)

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. 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 adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

(4) One adult employed to work directly with children attending the service and held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were not available in respect of the adult employed whose staff file was reviewed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b) Two written references are on file.

Supporting documentation submitted

Two documents.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered providers has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 9.

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) There were eighteen children attending the service being supervised directly by three adults.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

Non-Compliance Information

(8)(a) Two adults were not present in the premises at all times from 17:00 – 18:00 hours since 29 June 2026. One adult was present.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(8)(a) We have completed a staff roster to ensure there are two staff on the premises at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

(8)(a) Staff roster.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered providers has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 11. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor.*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A curriculum vita was not available on file for one adult whose staff file was reviewed.
 - (i) There was no staff roster available detailing hours worked, breaks taken and cover for breaks since 18 August 2026. It is acknowledged that a roster was maintained prior to that date.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
- (a) A curriculum vita is now on file.
 - (i) A staff roster now available.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documents x 2

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered providers has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 16.

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

Basic needs of children:

(1)(a) The staff sat with the children at mealtimes and engaged them in conversation. Mealtimes were relaxed and unhurried. The children's toileting and nappy changing care requirements were responded to promptly when required. It was handled in a sensitive and positive manner.

There was no child attending on the day requiring sleep. Facilities were available for any child needing sleep.

The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours. Children's first names, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used by the staff members during interactions. There was a predictability to the children's day which they were familiar with. The children spent most of their time outdoors as the weather was dry and warm.

Supporting relationships around children:

Staff members were observed being respectful and kind towards the children in their care.

The service had an open-door policy for parents. Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times. A closed electronic communication system is used for general communication purposes also with parents. Face to face meetings with parents can be organised as needed by the registered provider. Monthly team meetings are held in the service.

Physical and material environment:

The care room was open plan and included a cosy and comfortable rest area beside the library, home corner, construction area, arts and craft area, puzzles and jigsaws, magnets, bricks and blocks, pegboards and threading equipment to support fine motor development. The outdoor area was spacious and directly accessible from the care room. Equipment included sand and water play, a digging area with stones, tractors, tricycles, push along toys, see saws and a fixed multi activity climbing, swing and slide unit placed on an impact absorbent surface.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Non-Compliance Information

1. Plates were not provided for the children's snack as five children were observed placing their food directly on the table.
2. Children used spoons to eat their dinner rather than a knife and fork. Some children were observed using their hands to eat the lasagne.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Plates are available for all snacks provided by the service throughout the day
2. Age appropriate cutlery is available and provided at meals.

Supporting documentation submitted

Six photographs.

Summary Comment

The written response and photographic evidence submitted by the registered providers has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 19. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) There was insufficient sleep facilities as there was one low level sleep bed available for twenty one children attending on a full day care and part time basis.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)(b) There is now five low level beds available at all times to insure safe sleep

Supporting documentation submitted

Two photographs.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The written response and photographic evidence submitted by the registered providers has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 20. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

1. There was nineteen chairs available which was not insufficient as the service is registered for 22 children attending on a sessional basis and 21 children attending for part time / full day care.
2. There was no adult chairs available for the staff members to use.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. There are twenty two children's chairs available in the service.
2. There are three adult chairs available for the staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

Two photographs.

Summary Comment

The written response and photographic evidence submitted by the registered providers has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 21.

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 healthy eating policy in place. The main meal was sourced from an external caterer and delivered daily to the service heated. Snacks were provided by the parents. Drinking water was freely available throughout the day. The hot meal was lasagne and mixed vegetables. Additional portions of food were available and offered to the children.

Non-Compliance Information

1. There was no weekly menu available detailing all food provided to the children daily.
2. The registered providers did not ensure that the children attending on a full day care basis were provided with sufficient food in the afternoon. The food not eaten by the children at the morning snack was provided for afternoon snack which was observed to be insufficient.
3. The kitchen was located in corner of the open plan care room. A written referral was sent to the Environmental Health Office on 26 August 2026.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A weekly menu is on display, and a three week rotation menu is being prepared.
2. A nutritious evening snack is provided.
3. Environmental health inspection completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

1, 2 – Two documents.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered providers has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 22. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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 main entrance gate and door to the service was secure and controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school service.

Daily indoor room and outdoor risk assessments were completed and maintained to ensure a safe play and work environment for the children and staff.

Staff members in each room advised the inspector they would remove any beaded necklace if observed that a child may be wearing them.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water and liquid hand soap were readily available for hygienic hand washing and handwashing routines were well established and observed.

Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues, paper towel and waste. Plastic aprons, disposable gloves and nappy sacks were available for hygienic nappy change practices. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environment which was observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection; written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with required practices when administering medication in the service. Temperature reducing medication was available if a child presented with a high temperature. Medication was stored safely and inaccessible to children.

Safe Sleep:

The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance to reduce the risk of sudden infant death including completing 10-minute sleep check observations on all sleeping children and documenting the colour, position and breathing pattern of sleeping children in their care.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire Safety:

The fire emergency exits were free from obstruction in the premises. A fire assembly point was noted in the outdoor play area.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Six of the eighteen children attending the service were seated on chairs which were the wrong size for them as they were unable to place their feet on the floor for stability. This created a risk of injury to a child if they fell off the chair.

Infection Control:

2. Children's perishable foods which included yogurts/ yogurt drinks, cold meat sandwiches, cheese provided by parents for snacks were not stored in a fridge on arrival to the service. This was not adequate for infection control and food safety purposes.
3. Nappy changes were observed on the day of inspection and were not adequate for infection control purposes. The nappy change practices require to be reviewed as the gloves and apron used was not removed following the disposal of the soiled nappy and wipes and prior to handling the clean nappy.
4. The nappy change mat was torn, and the inner foam was exposed which limited effective cleaning for infection control.
5. The nappy change mat was not placed in a closed bag in the toilet area, when not in use which was not suitable for infection control.
6. The covers of the three soft seats in the rest area were torn, and the inner foam was exposed which limited effective cleaning for infection control.
7. A roll of paper towel not placed in a dispenser in the care room for the hygienic dispensing of paper towel for infection control.

Safe Sleep:

8. There was no sleep record template available to record children's sleep observations in the event of a child sleeping.

Fire Safety:

9. The fire alarm in the service had not had the annual service to ensure that it was working correctly.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. New tables have been purchased to use in the service.

Infection Control:

2. All perishable food is stored in the fridge on arrival to the service. One staff member is responsible for ensuring all perishable food are placed in the fridge on the children's arrival.
3. The nappy changing policy and procedure has been reviewed.
4. A new hard bottom changing mat has been purchased.
5. After the nappy changing mat is disinfected, it is placed in a sealed bag for storage.
6. A new couch has been purchased.
7. The paper towel is in a hand towel dispenser.

Safe Sleep:

8. A sleep record book has been purchased.

Fire Safety:

9. The servicing of the smoke alarm system has been completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photograph.

Infection Control:

- 2-7. Photographs.

Safe Sleep:

8. Photograph.

Fire Safety:

9. Document.

Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted by the registered providers has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 23. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (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.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a), (b) The registered providers ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained. The inspector's visit to the service was documented in the visitor's book on arrival.
- (4) The registered providers confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered providers did not ensure that each child was checked in and out of the service since 18 August 2026 following review of the written attendance records for the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) Attendance records are filled out on child's arrival and departure.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Photograph.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The written response and photographic evidence submitted by the registered providers has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 24. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no adult trained in first aid response (FAR) and immediately available to the children attending the service from 17:00- 18:00 hours.

(2)

(a) There was no first aid signage indicating where the first aid box was stored.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was not available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the service as there was no antiseptic wipes available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) All three staff have FAR qualifications.

(2)(a) First aid sign in clear view.

(b) Antiseptic wipes have been purchased. Regular checks of first aid bags.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1) Document.

(2)(a) (b) Photograph.