

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

**EARLY
YEARS**
INSPECTORATE

**A Guide to Reading an Early Years
Inspection Report**

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A Guide to reading a Tusla Early Years Inspection Report:

When choosing an Early Years Service for your child or if your child is already in a service, it is always good to have further details about the quality of care and early learning provided in the service, and the levels of compliance in the service with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Inspection reports are published after the inspection process has finished, and are available to access here <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/creche-inspection-reports/>

Each inspection report on the Tusla website is the last published report for that Early Years Service. It should be noted that a more recent Tusla inspection may have taken place, however, later inspection reports will not be published until all regulatory processes are completed. To have a better understanding of the quality of provision of early learning and care in an Early Years Service, parents are advised to take the following steps:

- Read the last published report for the Early Years Service on the Tusla website
- Ask the Early Years Service registered provider if this is the report from their most recent Tusla inspection.
- If the report does not reflect the most recent Tusla inspection, ask the provider when their last Tusla inspection took place and if there were any areas of concern identified by the Tusla Early Years inspectors on the day of inspection.
- Request to see the Tusla certificate of registration for the Early Years Service.

Published inspection reports will give a lot of information about the Early Years Service that your child is attending, or that you are considering for your child. Parents should feel confident and comfortable in discussing the Tusla inspection report with the registered provider. The essence of quality early years provision is the quality of the relationships; these should be respectful and based on trust. If you prefer not to discuss the inspection report with the registered provider, the following information may be of assistance:

Routine inspections of Early Years Services are **unannounced**. The Tusla Early Years Inspector conducts inspections using a 3- step approach; the inspector reviews relevant documentation and interviews the registered provider and / or the designated person in charge, and a sample of the staff in the service.

The inspector also observes the practice in the service on the day of inspection. All of this information is triangulated to inform the inspection report.

The inspection report will tell you:

The **type of service that is registered** with Tusla, for example; Sessional, Part Time, Full day, Drop in, Temporary, Child-minding.

The date of the inspection and the date of the last recorded inspection. The report may be based on a single inspection of the Early Years Service, or it may be an inspection report which is compiled following more than one inspection.

Descriptive:

The report includes a description of the premises, the staffing levels, the range of qualifications of the staff, the opening hours and the number of children present in the service on the day of inspection. This information will provide you with more details of the size of the service and will support you in deciding if the service meets your needs and those of your child.

Registration Status:

This is a significant piece of information for parents, as the registration status outlines if the service is registered without conditions attached to their registration, or with conditions attached to their registration. Conditions of registration aim to reduce any risks associated with issues identified at inspection.

The Focus of the Inspection:

There are different types of inspection, and the type of inspection that is used by the inspector in each service is based on a number of factors. These factors include:

- History of compliance with the Regulations.
- Additional information received through the Notification of Incident or Feedback and Concerns Process
- Any other information or intelligence available to the Early Years Inspectorate

This information guides the focus of the inspection. Inspections are conducted by using a sample of the relevant regulations, however If on inspection, additional areas of concern become apparent to the Early Years Inspector, these are also included in the inspection process.

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Regulations Inspected:

The regulations that the Early Years Service were inspected on are stated in the report. By reading more about each regulation, you will be aware of what the registered provider must do to be fully compliant. The Quality and Regulatory Framework provides guidance on what compliance with the regulations looks like in practice, click here to access <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-quality-and-regulatory-framework/>

Compliance Information:

The inspection report identifies where the Early Years Service was compliant with each regulation inspected. This information will show you how well the service is meeting its obligations to provide high quality early learning and care provision.

Non-Compliance Information:

The report also records any areas of non-compliance with the Regulations that were identified on the day of inspection. This is very important information for you to have.

Corrective and Preventive Action:

Following the inspection and the issuing of the draft inspection report, the Registered Provider is given an opportunity to advise the Inspectorate on how they will correct any non-compliances found on inspection, and to show how they will prevent the non-compliance from re occurring.

The Registered Provider must show evidence to support any information they submit to the Early Years Inspector.

Summary Comment:

A summary comment is then added by the Early Years Inspector which confirms if the service is considered to be compliant, following the corrective and preventative process.

Immediate Action Notice:

When there are incidences of non-compliances identified as part of an inspection process that are deemed by the Early Years Inspector to pose a significant risk to the health safety and wellbeing of the children in the service, an immediate Action Notice is issued. The Immediate Action Notice directs the Registered Provider to take immediate action regarding the specific issue identified. Immediate Action Notices, when they are initiated, are recorded in the Early Years Inspection report.

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Referrals:

If any concerns are identified in the inspection process which relate to other statutory agencies, an appropriate referral is made. This may include referrals to Social Work, Fire Safety, Public Health or Environmental Health, for example.

Conclusion:

Children attending an Early Years Service are entitled to the highest quality early learning and care experiences, and parents need to be reassured that this is the case. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 outline the minimum standards of quality required in a service. **Any non-compliances with the regulations identified during an inspection should be carefully considered by parents/ guardians when reading the report. Non-compliances identified in the inspection report were identified by the Tusla Early Years Inspector on the day of an unannounced inspection.** In all cases, clarification should be sought from the Registered Provider in relation to any concerns a parent /guardian has about the inspection report. If your concern is not satisfactorily addressed, you can forward your concerns to Tusla Early Years Inspectorate [click here](#).

<https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/where-to-get-advice-if-i-have-a-difficulty-or-a-complaint-about-a-service/>