

A Guide to reading a Tusla Early Years Inspection Report:

When choosing an early years setting for your child or if your child is already in an early years setting it is always good to have some further details about the quality of provision and the early years settings level of compliance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

A total of 2513 individual inspections were conducted by the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate in 2018. Inspection reports are published following the finalisation of the inspection process and are available to access here <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/creche-inspection-reports/>

The inspection report on the Tusla website is the last published report for the Early Years setting. It should be noted that a further Tusla Early Years inspection may have taken place since this report was published however the inspection report for this most recent inspection will not be published until all regulatory processes are completed. To have a better understanding of the quality of provision in an Early Years setting, parents are advised to take the following steps.

- Read the last published report for the Early Years setting on the Tusla website
- Ask the Early Years' service provider if this report 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 setting.

Published inspection reports, particularly those published since 2016, will give you a lot of information about the early years' service. We suggest that the Tusla inspection report for an Early Years setting is a document which a parent should feel confident and comfortable to discuss 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 however you choose not to discuss the inspection report with the registered provider the following guide may be of assistance.

To note; routine inspections of Early Years settings are **unannounced**. The Tusla Early Years Inspector conducts inspections using a three stepped approach. The inspector inspects relevant documentation, interviews the Registered Provider and / or designated person and a sample of the staff in the early years setting. The inspector also observes the practice in the early years setting on the day of inspection. This information is triangulated to inform the inspection report.

The inspection report will tell you:

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

The date of the inspection and the date of the last inspection recorded. 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 multiple inspections of the service.

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 early year's inspection on the day of inspection. This information will provide you with details of the size of the service and will support you in deciding if the service meets your needs and that 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. Condition of Registration aim to reduce the risk associated with issues arising at inspection.

The Focus of the Inspection:

There are a number of inspection types, inspection of the early years setting is guided by the outcome of the previous inspection reports, any further additional information received through the Tusla Unsolicited Information process and intelligence available to the early year's inspectorate. This information guides the focus of the inspection, and inspections are conducted under a sample of the identified relevant regulations. If on inspection additional areas of concern become apparent to the Early Years inspector, these are also included in the inspection process.

Regulations Inspected:

The regulations that the early years setting were inspected against on the day of inspection are stated on the report. By reading this regulation you will be aware of what the early year's provider must do to be compliant with the regulations. The Quality and Regulatory Framework which was launched in Sept 2018 provides guidance on what the regulations look 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 setting was compliant on the day of inspection with each regulation inspected against. This information confirms to you the best practice in the early years setting.

Non Compliance Information:

The report then records where levels of non-compliance with the Regulations were identified on the day of inspection. This is very important information for you to take note of.

Corrective and Preventative Action:

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

The Registered Provider provides evidence to support the information they submit to the Early Years Inspector.

Summary Comment:

A summary comment is added by the early year's inspector which confirms if the regulation inspected is compliant or not following the corrective and preventative process.

Immediate Action Notice:

When there are incidences of non-compliance with the regulations, identified as part of an inspection process which is deemed by the Early Years inspector as 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 with regard to the specific issue. Immediate Action Notices when they are initiated are recorded in the Early Years Inspection report.

Referrals:

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

Conclusion:

Children and parents attending any early years setting are entitled to the highest quality early learning and care experiences. The Early Years Services Regulations 2016 outline the minimum standards of quality which are required to be provided. **Any and all non-compliance with the regulations as noted in the Early Years setting report should be carefully considered by the parents/ guardians when reading the inspection report of a service. The non-compliances identified in the inspection report are the non-compliances identified by the Tusla Early Years Inspector on the day of the unannounced inspection.** In all cases clarification should be sought in relation to any concerns a parent / guardian has in relation to the provision of the early years' service from the Registered Provider. If your concern is not satisfactorily address, please do forward your concerns to Tusla Early Years Inspectorateclick here.

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