

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC167
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Name of Service:	Gleann na Phreachain Pre-School
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Address of Service:	Community Centre, Glenville, Co Cork
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Eircode:	T56 TK88
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Name of Registered Provider:	Helena Welstead-Dorgan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Market Square, Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	N O'Donoghue
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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

Gleann na Phreachain Pre-school is a registered privately owned early years service. This service is registered to cater for children from 2-6 years and at time of inspection the service was catering for children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years offering a morning sessional service to the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The current opening hours are from 9.00am to 12.00pm each day Monday to Friday. The service operates from one room in the community centre that is located in the rural village of Glenville, Co Cork. The children have access to a designated secure outdoor play area located to the rear of the premise.

Staffing

There are two staff attached to the service, this includes the registered provider and early years educator.

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/ 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 registered provider, deputy person in charge and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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*
- (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 deputy person in charge on the premises on the day of inspection.
 - (b) A person in charge or named deputy person in charge were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.
 - (c) There was a clearly identified management structure in the service. This included person in charge and deputy person in charge.
- (2) There are two staff attached to the service; all two staff files were open to inspection.
- (a) Of the four references required, three validated references were available from past employers.
 - (b) Of the four references required, one validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures has been obtained for all two staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was not deemed to be required for any of the two adults working in the service.
- (4) All two staff working directly with children held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least at Level 5 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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(3) On the day of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation.

- In the Preschool room, there was 2 staff working with 14 children aged between 2 years and 10 months and 4 years and 9 months, all attending sessional care.

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) On the day of inspection, the following information was obtained through:

- Direct observation and discussion with staff
- Examination of relevant documentation

Basic needs:

- During mealtimes, a relaxed social environment was evident. Staff allowed children to eat at their own pace and engaged in conversations with the children at snack time. Children were supported by staff with the opening of their snacks.
- There was a supply of tissues available to the children and staff supported children with cleaning their noses when required.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were attended to regularly and staff assisted children when they needed it. Staff were observed cleaning children's faces after mealtimes.
- Good handwashing routines were evident on the day of inspection. Staff supervised children to wash their hands before snack and after playing outside.
- Children were encouraged in developing their independence skills for example, putting their own coats on and staff supported children when required.
- Children were encouraged to engage in a wide range of gross motor skills including jumping, running, bouncing and riding bikes.
- Fine motor skills were encouraged through mark-making materials, colouring and gluing activities.

Supporting relationships:

- The staff in the playroom were observed to be caring and kind towards the children and other adults in the room. Staff used soft tones when speaking with the children and spoke to them at child level.
- Staff were observed sitting with children during free-play and during meal times. Staff and children spoke about their families and the activities they had completed over the weekend.
- Children engaged in peer-on-peer play such as role-playing games and farm play outdoors.

Programme of activities:

- The service developed their programme of activities through an emergent, child-led and play based curriculum.
- Children expressed their interests and staff developed their interests further through group activities, stories and art activities.
- Short-term, medium-term and long-term activity plans were available on day of inspection. This was corresponding with the documented group activities displayed in the service.

- Transitions were managed well by staff and children transitioned between activities smoothly. Staff alerted the children of five minutes to the end of the activity and were given time to wind down and prepare themselves for the next task. Transitions also included songs for going outdoors including “Engine engine number 9”.

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 service ensured there was adequate equipment and materials available for the number of children attending the service. The service had additional toys and materials on the premises.

Some of the materials observed on the day of inspection indoors included puzzles, kitchen set, building blocks, cars, tractors, storybooks and a creativity corner. The outdoor area was spacious with equipment including bikes, scooters, slides, playhouses, and sensory activities included tuff trays with sand and leaves.

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 to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access or unsupervised exit of a child.
- All low laying cables were safely secured out of reach of the children.
- The outdoor area was secured to ensure no unsupervised exit of a child.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of sight and reach of children.

Infection control:

- Regular handwashing was observed by staff and children. Children’s hands were washed prior to mealtimes and after outdoor play.
- Windows were open for natural air ventilation.

- Staff cleaned the tables between activities and mealtimes.
- Pedal operated bins were available on the premises.

Administration of medication:

- No administration of medication was observed on the day of inspection. Discussion with staff ensured staff were aware of the correct process for administering medication in the event it was required.

Fire safety:

- Fire exits were clear of any obstruction and were clearly identified in the room.
- Fire equipment was available in the event they were required.

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 registered provider ensured that a member of staff with First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children at all times.

(2)
(a) The first aid box was safely stored out of reach of children and visibly accessible in the care room.
(b) The first aid box was available to the children at all times; in the event they required it.