

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC203
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Kilmurry Pre-School
-------------------------	---------------------

Address of Service:	Coolduv, Lissarda, Co Cork
----------------------------	----------------------------

Eircode:	P14 XK66
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Rosarie Mueller
-------------------------------------	-----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	26/03/2025
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Mallow Square, Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	N O'Donoghue and J Russell
Title:	Early Years Inspector and Inspection Registration Manager

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
---------------------------------	-----

Description of service

This service is a private sessional service registered to cater for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) catering for children aged 2 years 8 months to 6 years old. The setting is located in a purpose-built extension of the registered providers own residence. It consists of two playrooms, a sanitary facility and an enclosed outdoor area. The service operates as a play based, nature inspired pedagogical approach, supported by the Aistear programme and Síolta guidelines.

Staffing

There were four adults working directly with the children, including the registered provider. There was one adult attached to the service as maintenance and repair staff.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulations 9, 11, 19, 21, 23, and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff 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 a deputy person in charge on the premises on the day of inspection. In the event the person or deputy person in charge were not on the premises a named person able to deputise was available.

(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, deputy person in charge, room leader and childcare assistant.

(2) Four staff work in the service. All four staff files were open to inspection.

(a) Of the 8 references required 7 validated references were available from past employers.

(b) Of the 8 references required 1 validated reference was available from a reputable source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all four adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re- vetting timeframes outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was deemed to be required for two of the adults and copies of the relevant documents were maintained on file.

(4) All four staff held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least 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.

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) There was an adequate number of staff working with children at all times.

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

The registered provider was available as additional staff working between the two rooms.

- In preschool room 1, there was 2 staff working with 22 children aged between 3 years and 5 years, all attending sessional care.
- In preschool room 2, there was 1 staff working with 9 children aged between 2.5 years and 4 years, all attending sessional care.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) Children's enrolment forms were assessed for 12 of the children registered as attending the service. The records inspected had the detail required as listed from (a) to (i).

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:

- Children had access to their labelled water bottles throughout the morning. Children were observed to take their water bottles throughout the session when they required it.
- Staff supported children with toileting when required and supervised children with handwashing.
- Children had access to the outdoor area during free play and were able to go outside freely in the session. Staff supported children with coats and rubber boots when they required it.
- Children brought a packed lunch provided by parents/guardians which they ate at meal times. Staff sat with the children and supported them with drink bottles and opening their food containers if needed.
- Children assisted in handing out lunches and water bottles. Staff provided recycling bowls to be placed on the tables.
- Children were encouraged to express their emotions and staff facilitated this by providing time prior to meal time to take deep breaths to regulate their emotions and give them an opportunity to relax.
- Children were also observed to express their feelings when arriving to the service by looking at the emotions board by their coats and discussing their feelings with the other children.
- Children had spare clothing available to them in the event they needed it.
- There was a rest area in each room which consisted of a sponge couch and story books were available. Children were freely accessing this area and would read story books to their peers.

Programme of activities:

- On arrival to the service, a range of table top activities were available to the children while settling in. These included magnet play, puzzles, shape play, colouring/drawing and lock board activities.

- Children were provided jobs throughout the session, each child had an identified role. Jobs included putting lunch boxes in the fridge, handing out lunch boxes at snack time and handing out water bottles.
- A picture schedule was displayed in each room to allow children to understand the activities of the day.
- Children had access to natural materials to play with such as seashells. Children were observed engaging in conversation with their peers and discussing the beach and sea animals.
- The registered provider ensured that all staff were competent in behaviour management and staff supported children to regulate their emotions. This was evident throughout the session as staff supported children with breathing exercises before meal time, after meal time and when needed throughout the day.
- Short-term, medium-term and long-term activity plans were observed on day of inspection. This was regularly updated to include the interests of the child.
- Children were observed completing artwork activities for Mother's Day. Children completed the activity themselves, and staff were available for help if the child required it.
- The register provider explained that the service regular review the outdoor play timetable and explained to the inspectors they aim to facilitate more free play opportunities outdoor. It was observed that children were playing with farm animals, dinosaurs and small cars outdoors.
- Staff completed journals which children bring home at the end of term. It is completed with art work, observations, and pictures of the child's learning throughout the year.
- The Irish language is incorporated daily in the children's routine. Staff use Irish words and sing songs through Irish to further enhance the language development.

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

The following was observed on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children:

General Safety:

- The entrance door of the service was kept secured. Entry to the service was maintained by staff. This was to prevent the unauthorised access of a person or exit of unsupervised child.
- There were no blind cords on the windows.
- Perishable foods were kept in the fridge.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach by children.
- The outdoor area was secured with iron fencing and wooden fencing.
- Hot water was regulated in the bathroom sinks, and the sinks available in each room and did not exceed 43°C.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing was observed regularly throughout the day, prior to meal times, after outdoor play and after toileting.
- Staff were observed cleaning tables between activities and prior to meal time.
- The service was visibly clean.

Administration of Medication:

- No administration of medication was observed on day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were unobstructed and clear in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The outdoor ship portholes were chipped and posed a risk of injury to children when playing. The registered provider corrected this following the inspection and ensured the portholes were made safe.
2. The Garda vetting disclosure available for one of the adults was not dated within the previous three years, in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The registered provider ensured the outdoor ship portholes were fixed after inspection and were completed in a timely manner. It was ensured that regular maintenance checks and risk assessments will be completed.
2. Garda vetting has been applied for by the registered provider and will ensure to complete regular checks of staff files and will monitor garda vetting renewal.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence of the fixed portholes was received by the department and a copy of the updated Garda vetting was forwarded.

Summary Comment

All correspondence was examined. The non-compliance has been rectified, and the requirement has been met.

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) The service had maintained a record on the following:
- (a) Each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill was 05/02/2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(b) The fire alarm and equipment servicing records were previously serviced on 25/08/2024. It is acknowledged that the registered provider had the fire alarms and firefighting equipment serviced the day after inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider ensured a new company for servicing fire equipment has been identified and fire servicing was completed following inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of the up-to-date fire certificate was received.

Summary Comment

All correspondence was examined. The non-compliance has been rectified, and the requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certificate for the service was furnished to the inspector. The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- The contact details for the insurance provider.
- The name and address of the service insured.
- The number of children covered by the insurance was 33 children.
- The categories of insurance cover for the service.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/2025.