

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC205
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kinsale Community Playschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Sáile, Cappagh, Kinsale, Co Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	P17 WD66
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Danielle Canniffe
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	26/03/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Administration Building, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23X440.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D Cotter
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Kinsale Community Playschool is a community based sessional service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). It operates from a prefabricated structure that is located on the outskirts of Kinsale town. There is a large outdoor play area to the rear and side of the premises. The service caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age and carries out a morning and an afternoon session daily.

### Staffing

There are six adults attached to the service, including the registered provider, and a community employment (C.E) participant that all work directly with the early years children.

### 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 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*

*(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 named person in charge who was the registered provider and a deputy that could deputise as required.
- (b) The named deputy was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained available to the inspector for the remainder of the inspection.
- (2) A total of six recruitment files were reviewed. One of the files related to a C.E participant.
- (a) Ten of the twelve required written and validated references on file were from past employers.
- (b) Two of the twelve references had been provided by sources other than previous employers and had been validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 6 adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as 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 had been acquired in respect of four of the adults who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.
- (4) All 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. A qualification was not required for the C.E participant associated with the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

- 9.
- (2)(d) The requirement for Police vetting could not be ascertained for one staff member, as the curriculum vitae on file for assessment was incomplete.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider submitted an updated Curriculum Vitae which demonstrated that the staff member did not require International Police vetting. The registered provider stated that they will ensure that they have thoroughly checked the documents submitted by staff going forward.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

The registered provider has submitted an updated Curriculum Vitae.

#### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non compliance identified under Regulation 9 (2) (d) has been adequately addressed.

### 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.*

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

(3)  
The adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation. On the morning of inspection, there were 17 children between the ages of 2.5 years and 5 years being cared for by 4 adults.

(8) On the day of inspection, it was evidenced through discussion with staff and by the staff roster that there are always at least two people on the premises.

### 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:

- Staff responded to children in low tones and communicated with them respectfully throughout the inspection.
- Children were observed to eat healthy and nutritious food throughout the day.
- Children had access to their water bottles throughout the day.
- A rest area was provided in the main room should any child need to rest.
- Children's toileting needs were attended to promptly and staff assisted children when necessary.
- The room was well laid out to encourage the children to move freely between the interest areas.
- It was evident through observation on the day of inspection that children's voices were listened to, and children were able to communicate their needs to attentive adults.

##### Physical and Material Environment:

- The care room was furnished with child sized tables, chairs, low shelving and a variety of play materials and play equipment that met the needs of the children.
- All play materials and play equipment were easily visible and accessible to the children.
- Varied interest areas were set up in the care room such as construction area, home area, arts and crafts area, tabletop activities and dress up clothes.
- One of the areas had been set up with clean straw and stuffed rabbits ahead of a visit from the Easter bunny later in the day.
- The walls of the care rooms were decorated with art work that had been created by the children.

- The outdoor play environment provided play equipment that supported the children’s free play, imagination, individual and large group activities.

### 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 had been secured, and this ensured no unauthorised entry to, or exit from, the service.
- Doors within the care rooms which led to the outside had been secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised.
- All play equipment appeared to be in a clean state and of good repair.
- Heavy equipment and furniture had been anchored to prevent them falling onto a child.
- All electrical cables or flexes were in good repair and out of reach of children.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children.
- The outdoor area had been securely fenced to prevent unauthorised entry to or from the area.
- In the care rooms, the children’s bags and coats were stored safely off the floor.
- The cords attached to window blinds were safely secured high out of children’s reach.

##### Infection Control:

- Children’s hands were washed prior to eating and when they came indoors.
- Foot operated bins were in use throughout the service.
- Perishable food was refrigerated.
- A supply of liquid soap and paper towels were in use in the sanitary accommodations.
- Thermostatically controlled water was available in each hand wash basin. It was noted that the water was within the ranges of 39.4°C to 40.1°C.
- Windows were open throughout the service to aid natural ventilation.
- Mops, brushes and dustpans were stored in an area inaccessible to children.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire exit doors were free from obstruction.
- Wall tethered firefighting equipment was available in the care rooms.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for six members of staff. However, one of these vetting disclosures was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. The fence between the two areas of the outdoor play environment had screws protruding which could pose a risk of injury to children.

### Infection Control:

3. The storage unit in the outdoor area where refuse bins were stored was damaged leaving the refuse bin accessible to children.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The registered provider has applied for the renewal of the Garda vetting.
2. The registered provider has purchased new fencing to replace the damaged fencing.

#### Infection Control:

3. The registered provider has purchased a new storage unit to replace the broken store.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the application for the renewal of Garda vetting.

Receipts and an order for replacement equipment and a risk assessment of the outdoor area were submitted.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted.

The actions taken by the registered provider has addressed points 2 and 3. Evidence of an application for one staff members' Garda vetting was reviewed however, a copy of the complete Garda vetting has not been submitted to the inspector to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. Point 1 remains outstanding and will be assessed at the next inspection.

## 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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 registered provider has ensured that a record has been kept in respect of:
  - (a) Monthly fire drills, the last recorded fire drill for the service took place on 20th March 2026 and
  - (b) The number, type and maintenance records for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms for the service. It was noted that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm were last serviced in January 2026.
- 2.(c) These records were present and available to the inspector for review.
4. A notice of the fire evacuation procedure was displayed prominently in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The services' insurance certificate was available on the premises and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered daily which was 22. The start date, which was 28 March 2025, the end date, which was 27 March 2026. The certificate also stated the category of service covered which was Full day care service and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.