

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC208
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	K's Pre-School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Lackanashinagh, Coppeen, Enniskeane, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	P47 XP29
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Kathleen Crowley
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	01/12/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Department, Child & Family Agency, Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co Cork P81 PD78
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M. O Reilly
<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

K's Pre-School is a private operated service that is registered to provide a sessional service to accommodate children aged 2 to 6 years. The service currently caters for children from the age of 2 years 6 months to 6 years and for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. Registered opening hours are from 09:15 to 12:15 and from 12:30 to 15:30 hours each day Monday to Friday. Currently the service is operating a morning service only. The service operates from a single storey modular building to the rear side of the registered providers private residence. The service is located in a rural area in Coppeen, Enniskeane, Co Cork. The service consists of an entrance hall with two adjoining playrooms and an adequate number of toilet facilities for both staff and children. The children have direct access to a secured, outdoor play area beside the preschool building. There is sufficient parking space within the registered providers grounds for the children to arrive and depart safely from the service with their families.

### Staffing

There were three staff employed to work directly with the early years children including the named registered provider of the service. The staff who work directly with the early years children all hold a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education. There is currently a third level student on work placement in attendance one day a week in the service. The student was not present at time of inspection.

### 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, 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) There was a person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
  - (b) The person in charge was present when the inspector arrived on the premises and remained for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider came later to the service to assist while the inspection was taking place.
- (2)
- The recruitment records in relation to 3 adults who were employed at the service and one student on work placement were the subject of the inspection.
- (a) Of the 8 required references, 3 references were from previous employers with records of validation on file.

(b) Of the remaining references, 5 references were from another source other than a previous employer with the required records of validation on file.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 4 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as no adult had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The 3 staff members had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education with copies of the relevant qualifications on file.

## 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) A sufficient number of adults were observed to work directly with the children who attended the service.

(3) At the time of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of regulation 11.

There were 9 children with 2 adults in attendance in Room 1. There were 11 children with 1 adult in attendance in Room 2.

During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.

## 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)(a) to (i)

A sample of 12 child registration forms were reviewed and found to contain all of the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (a) to (i) inclusive.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A written record of the children’s attendance including the time they arrived and departed from the service each day were individually recorded in the role book and sign in and out sheet.
- (i) A written record of each staff members arrival and departure time daily to the service were maintained.
- (k) While there was a child accident and incident service template on site. There was no accident, incident record to report since the last inspection in 2023.

## 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:

- On inspection, a relaxed and calm environment was provided for the children, and it was observed that the adults spoke kindly and offered encouragement to each child.
- Staff were observed to demonstrate patience and kindness in their interactions with the children, as was noted when the children’s efforts were readily acknowledged.
- Only low tones were used during communication and positive reinforcement was observed during play, the facilitation of toileting and assisting with lunches.

- Children were delegated to be helpers in turn on a daily basis to carry out tasks such as laying the table, fetching and distributing lunches at mid-morning snack time. Lunchtime was a sociable and unhurried and staff members sat with the children and were actively assisting with opening yogurt cartons and peeling fruits. The children had access to their labelled water bottles which were stored on a trolley in each of the playrooms.
- The children were largely independent using the toilet and were supported appropriately by the adults to use the toilet when required.
- Each child had their own coat hook and space for bags, coats and protective boots in the entrance hall area.
- Children presented as relaxed, happy, and familiar with their environment and daily routine.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The two rooms were child-friendly, bright, clean and well-presented. They had many openable windows which allowed for natural light and ventilation. The outdoor play area was located beside the premise.
- The indoor environment of the playrooms were laid out with interest areas, including home/ construction area, painting, and crafts area and tabletop activities area.
- Tabletop activities included fine motor skill materials such as peg boards, jig saws and puzzles and children had access to small and large construction items.
- The layout of the two playrooms promoted the independent access to all the materials to foster children's autonomy and freedom of choice. Both rooms were laid out in a manner to encourage thematic play and provided a wide range of opportunities and play experiences. Children had access to the play materials which were stored in low open shelving units.
- Both rooms had rest areas which were suitably furnished to allow children to relax and enjoy books. The rest area was beside the book area where books were displayed at child height. Post mid-morning snack, staff encouraged the children to pick a book of choice.
- The children had sufficient clear floor space to enjoy free uninterrupted play and socialisation.
- There were a well-equipped home corners with dress up and items to encourage pretend play. The walls of the service were decorated with thematic murals, birthday charts and family photographs.
- The children had access to their own secured playground which provided gross motor skill play, such as ride on and push toys, hoops, balls, mud kitchen, low slides, climbing frame and tunnel. An all-weather surface had been installed on much of the play surface for the children's safety and comfort while playing. Multi-sensory play experiences were provided that included water and sand play.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

- The service had a healthy eating policy in place, and this was closely adhered to as observed by the healthy, varied and nutritious lunches observed being eaten by the children. For example, sandwiches, wraps, rice cakes, chopped fruits and vegetables.
- The children’s parents and guardians provided all food items. A drink station in the smaller playroom allowed the children to access their water bottles at all times while the service was in operation.
- The service provided crockery and cutlery as required.

## 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 suitably secured, this minimised the risk of unauthorised persons gaining access to the premises and reduced the likelihood of a child exiting, while unsupervised.
- The children did not have access to the adult toilet.
- The openable windows in the playroom were at adult height.
- Blind cords were suitably attached to secured latches.
- Cables and flexes were adequately secured.
- The playgrounds were suitably secured.
- Play materials were found to be in a good state of repair with no pinch points or sharp edges.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained.
- Throughout the service, wash hand basins were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towel dispensers, for hygienic hand washing and drying. Handwashing by the children was observed before midmorning snack and after toileting.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water registered within the normal range of 39 degrees Celsius.
- Lidded, foot pedal operated bins were available for waste and disposal of single used papers towels throughout the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

- Even though there was a fridge in the service. It was observed that the perishable foods provided by parents and guardians for the children's mid-morning snack were not refrigerated prior to consumption, which increased the risk of food spoilage and foodborne illness to a child.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

- In the corrective and preventative response (CAPA) received from the registered provider and named person in charge the following was stated: All perishable foods in the children's lunches going forward will be refrigerated in the service fridge. On the child's arrival to the service each day, staff will take the perishable foods from the lunch bag and store the perishable food in the service fridge until snack time. The parents/guardians of the children attending have been informed to place all perishable foods daily in a clearly labelled bag in the school lunch box.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

- A copy of the letter sent to parents advising on the storage of perishable foods in a clearly labelled bag and stored in service refrigerator until prior to consumption.
- Photographic evidence of the information on the notice board in the service hall outlining the storage of perishable foods from the children's lunches while the children are attending the service.

### Summary Comment

- Correspondence was received and deemed to meet the requirement of Regulation 23, Infection Control, of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

## 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 did ensure that there were staff available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. The FAR certification on file indicated that one staff member held current up to date training. Two staff members held current up to date paediatric first aid training certificates.

(2)

(a) The first aid boxes was safely stored out of children's reach in the service. The first aid boxes were stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the playrooms.

(b) The fully equipped first aid boxes were available at all times to adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

### 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)
- (a) A written record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 12 November 2025.
  - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced in August 2025.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed 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 registered provider ensured the service was adequately insured, with insurance for 25 children attending until 27 March 26. The records detailed the category of service covered which was sessional, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.