

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC218
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Lisgoold Community Preschool Company Ltd
-------------------------	--

Address of Service:	Lisgoold Community Centre, Lisgoold Leamlara, Co Cork
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	T56 WT26
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Pierce Warren
-------------------------------------	---------------

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

Date of Inspection:	30/04/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	8
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23 X440
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast & M Creagh
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Lisgoold Community Preschool Company Ltd is a play-based, sessional service, that was first established in 2001. It is registered to accommodate children aged 2 to 6 years. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme is facilitated from 9.00am to 12.00pm in the morning and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm in the afternoon. Situated in the rural village of Lisgoold in Co Cork, the service operates from a community hall. There are two care rooms, each with adjacent sanitary facilities, along with a large hall and a kitchen facility. A designated outdoor play space is accessible at the side of the building.

Staffing

There are currently seven adults attached to the setting. Five of these adults are involved in the direct care of the children and each holds a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. This includes two adults employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) support scheme. The registered provider is not based at the early years service and the office manager does not work directly with the 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, office manager, 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 designated person in charge assigned to the service, along with a named person, who could deputise as required. This information was clearly displayed on the service's notice board.
 - (b) At all times during the inspection process, the person in charge was available, including when the inspectors arrived at the premises. The staff roster also indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy was on duty throughout the hours of operation.
- (2) Recruitment records in relation to the seven adults attached to the early years setting were assessed and the following information was obtained:
- (a) There were 10 validated references on file from past employers.
 - (b) Four references had been provided by sources other than previous employers and were validated.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all seven adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (4) Records demonstrated that five of the adults had achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications. The registered provider and the office manager did not require said qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) It was acknowledged that a police vetting record was on file for one staff member. However, the required police vetting was unavailable for a second adult, who had lived in another State for longer than six consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The written reply from the registered provider outlined that the adult has obtained a certified copy of their fingerprints from An Garda Síochána and has submitted the police vetting application for the relevant country.

The police vetting has been received. As a preventive measure, a staff checklist for new staff has been created. This will be completed for all new staff, including a new registered provider and it will ensure that all the necessary documents are obtained.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the police vetting and a copy of the service's new staff checklist.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) During the onsite inspection, it was observed that a sufficient number of adults were involved in the direct care of the children.
- (3) The required adult to child ratios were observed in both care rooms. During the morning of the inspection, there were 16 children in the Green Pod, who were aged 3 to 5 years, with 3 adults available. Two adults were based in the Blue Pod, which accommodated 8 children, aged 4 to 5 years.
- In the afternoon, the Yellow pod (which operated from the same room as the Green pod) was attended by 11 children, with an age range of 3 to 4 ½ years and there were 2 adults present.

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:

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(k) A sample of 10 accident and incident records were reviewed and were found to meet the requirements.

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)

Supporting relationships:

- During snack time in the Blue pod, a social environment was promoted by the adults, who were observed to sit with the children and encouraged conversation. Plenty of time was also afforded for the children to enjoy their food.
- A warm, playful and engaging atmosphere was observed in both care rooms. The adults were patient and kind in their interactions with the children, who in turn appeared confident and focused, as they participated in the daily routine.
- The service's current monthly curriculum plan was displayed in the hall. This allowed parents and caregivers to become familiar with the theme of the month, related activities, songs, rhymes and the children's emerging interests. The person in charge advised that this method of communication was used in conjunction with regular verbal communication, parent teacher meetings, social media, email, text messages and phone calls.

- It was noted that correspondence to parents referred to a visit from the local principal and primary school teacher, which had been organised to support the children’s transition to primary school. A recently issued parents newsletter was also available for review.
- Regular communication between staff was ensured through informal daily discussion, the use of a messaging application and monthly staff meetings, which were recorded. For example, it was noted that the topic of process art was discussed at the March staff meeting, along with an upcoming visit from Better Start.

Programme of activities:

- The service followed a play based, emergent curriculum.
- In keeping with the curriculum information displayed for parents, evidence of the service’s programme of activities was also visible on the care room walls and within weekly written plans. For example, the theme of pirates was being explored at the time of inspection. The person in charge outlined that, in addition to such themes, activities and discussion were also guided by the children’s present interests and curiosities.
- The daily routine was observed to include opportunities for the children in both care rooms to play and explore outdoors. During this time, children engaged in various activities, such as sand play, construction, table top activities and imaginary play. Indoor free play offered similar opportunities for child led exploration and creativity.

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:

- Access to and exit from the service was appropriately managed to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining entry to the building.
- An enclosure of high-level fencing and secured gates was provided in the outdoor play space, at the side of the building.
- All of the play materials and equipment examined were noted to be maintained in good condition.
- Cables and flexes from electrical equipment were inaccessible to children.

Infection control:

- Wash hand basins were supplied with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels. Foot pedal operated bins were also provided for the hygienic disposal of used paper towels. The adults were observed to ensure that children washed their hands before the mid-morning snack.
- A refrigerator was used to store the children's perishable snacks, prior to meal breaks. At arrival times, a large container was available for children to place such foods into, before the snacks were transferred to the fridge.
- Labelled, wall hook storage was used to store the children's coats and bags.
- Adequate ventilation of the care rooms and sanitary areas was ensured through open windows and mechanical ventilation.

Administration of medication:

- While the administration of medication to a child was not observed at the time of inspection, medication that was held at the setting was noted to be stored safely. Said medication was also found to be in-date and had been clearly labelled.

Fire safety:

- There were no fire safety concerns observed.
- Fire exit signage was illuminated.

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) There were two adults with up-to-date certificates in First Aid Responder (FAR). Review of the staff roster demonstrated that at least one of these adults was on duty during the service's operational hours.

(2)

(a) The suitably equipped first aid boxes, which were stored on high-level shelves, were within easy reach of the

adults, while inaccessible to children.

(b) The first aid supplies were available at all times, for use as required.

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 firefighting 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) Previously conducted monthly fire drills were recorded in writing and were maintained on file. The most recently undertaken fire drill was dated 4 April 2025.

(b) A list of the number and type of firefighting equipment available in the service was documented. According to the servicing records, the firefighting equipment was last checked on 7 October 2024 and the wired smoke alarm was tested on 10 January 2025.

(4) The service's fire evacuation procedure was clearly displayed, at the entrance to one of the care rooms and within the other care room.