

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC352
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Rosscarbery Community Playschool & Afterschool Ltd.
-------------------------	---

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ardagh, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
----------------------------	-------------------------------

<b>Eircode:</b>	P85 P838
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Leona O'Sullivan
-------------------------------------	------------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/11/2024
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	7
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---

<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>	Ms. 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
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

Rosscarbery Community Playschool & Afterschool Ltd is a registered community based early years service in operation since 1990. The service provides education and care to children from 2 to 6 years offering a choice of sessional or part time care and for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. At time of inspection the children in attendance were aged between 2 years 8 months and 6 years. While the registered opening hours are from 09:00 to 13:30 hours and 13:00 to 16:00 hours each day Monday to Friday. Currently the service only operates from 09:00 to 13:30 hours each day.

The service is situated within Ardagh GAA sports grounds in the rural village of Rosscarbery in west Cork.

The community building has been purpose built for the delivery of a childcare service. It offers 2 large playrooms toilet facilities and ample storage located on the ground floor. There is a secured outdoor playground to the rear side of the premise.

The sports grounds provide generous parking areas for the safe arrival and departure of children to the service.

### Staffing

At time of inspection, there were 4 adults employed at the early years setting involved in the direct care of the children who attend. The service had one adult assigned to provide staff relief cover when required. The registered provider is not service based. Each of the 5 adults who work directly with the children holds a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education. The named registered provider is not service based and therefore does not require a childcare qualification.

### 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 two named persons 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 were two named persons in charge.

(b) Both of the persons in charge were present when the inspector arrived on the premises and remained for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The recruitment records in relation to 5 adults who were employed at the service and the named registered provider were the subject of the inspection.

(a) Of the 12 required references, 6 references were from previous employers with records of validation on file.

(b) Of the remaining references, 6 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 6 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) A processed police vetting was available for 1 adult who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The 5 adults assigned to work with the children in the service 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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

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

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

There were 17 children with 4 adults in attendance in the morning. There were 7 children in attendance in the part time service with three staff in attendance. The adult child ratio was correct.

### 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.
- Children were delegated to be helpers in turn on a daily basis to carry out tasks such as fetching and distributing lunches from the fridge.

- Meals were eaten in a designated playroom where the children from the two playrooms came together. Lunchtime was a sociable and unhurried. Staff members were observed actively assisting with opening yogurt cartons and peeling fruits.
- The children had access to their labelled water bottles which were stored on a shelf in the playroom.
- Staff helped children to recognise and understand the rules for being together as seen on day of inspection when groups of children were observed completing different play activities such as playing with magnetic blocks and sand play with accompanying play equipment. The children were observed sharing the experience and the activity fostered the children's confidence, imagination, mathematical and imaginary skills.
- Art aprons were available to protect clothing during arts and crafts sessions and sand play.
- The children were largely independent using the toilet and were supported appropriately by the adults to use the toilet when required.
- Children presented as relaxed, happy, and familiar with their environment.

#### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

- The two rooms were spacious and child friendly. Children had sufficient space to move about freely indoors and outdoors.
- 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 rooms promotes the independent access to all the materials to foster children's autonomy and freedom of choice.
- Both playrooms were furnished with sufficient child sized chairs and tables which were clean and well maintained.
- A quiet corner was in place to facilitate quiet time. A supply of cushions was available for the children to sit and relax.
- There were coat hooks and boxed units which provided each child with their own cubby space for the storage of personal items and arts and crafts stored in readiness to be taken home.
- The children had access to a large covered secured designated outdoor play area. The outdoor play area had an all-weather and cement surface. The children were observed to be appropriately dressed while playing outdoors. There were ride on toys, different sized blocks, sensory play in the form of a sand table. It was raining and the children were observed collecting the rainwater in small containers. The staff encouraged the children to listen to the sound of the rain pelting down on the pavement.

- This encouraged the children and staff to talk about the weather, season, and the rain promoting their imagination, language development and social skills.

## 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.
- It was observed that the children attending for the part time basis enjoyed an additional lunch when the sessional children had departed.
- Utensils and cutlery were provided by the service.
- A large fridge was available for the storage of perishable items of the children’s lunches

## 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 entrance gate and door were observed to be adequately secured when not in use on day of inspection. This minimised the risk of unauthorised persons gaining access to the premises and reduced the likelihood of a child exiting, while unsupervised.
- The outdoor play area was securely enclosed by a combination of the school building on three sides and a high metal fence and gates with a lock at adult height.
- All of the available cleaning agents were stored out of children’s reach on day of inspection.

### Infection Control:

- The 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 the two food breaks and after toileting.
- Lidded, foot pedal operated bins were available for waste and disposal of single used papers towels throughout the service.
- A fridge was situated within one of the rooms for the safe storage of the children's perishable items of their lunches.

### Safe Sleep:

- Children attending on a part time basis had access to an individual floor cushioned mat and bed linen when required. No child was observed sleeping at time of inspection.

## 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 two staff members held current up to date training.

(2)

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

(b) The fully equipped first aid box was 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 record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 18/10/2024
  - (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 January 2024.
- (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 22 children attending until 27/03/2025. The records detailed the category of service covered which was part time, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.