

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE025
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Name of Service:	Clare Family Resource Centre
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Address of Service:	Watery Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 DW72
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Name of Registered Provider:	Liam O'Connor
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	07/10/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	84	PM	73
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare
Inspection undertaken by:	J Hayes & Á McCarthy
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	Not applicable
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Description of service

Clare Family Resource Centre was established as a community-based childcare facility in 1996. The service is located in Ennis, County Clare. A programme of care and education is facilitated on a full day, part time and sessional basis for children ranging from eight months to six years of age, Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00 hrs.

The childcare facility is located in a purpose built, two storey building, that accommodates six pre-school rooms and two designated sleep rooms. The care rooms include: the baby room (age range: eight months to one year), the waddler room (age range: one to two years), the toddler room (age range: one to two years), the blossom/Montessori room (age range: three to five years), the sunflower room (age range: three to five years) and on the first floor the poppy room (age range: three to five years). The outdoor play areas located from each room provide a space with multisensory, physical, gross motor and imaginative play areas and these are accessed from each room. Each room have a covered section to accommodate play in all weather conditions.

Staffing

Thirty-five adults are employed by the service. The registered provider is part of a board of management and does not work in the childcare facility.

On the 07 October the manager, the work placement activation programme supervisor and the childcare coordinator were present. Twenty-three adults worked directly with the children, a maintenance person, and four adults were present that were engaged in work placement activation programmes on the day 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 and premises and facilities. . The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements (2)

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, 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 manager was the person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The manager and the deputy were available during the inspection.

(2)

Five files were inspected in respect of the adults that had commenced employment in the service since the last inspection. The findings included the following:

(a)

Five written and validated references from past employers in respect of the adults working in the service were available.

- (b)
Five written and validated references from a source other than a past employer in respect of adults working in the service were available.
- (c)
Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for five adults who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years in respect of two adults that required Garda vetting renewal.
- (d)
International police vetting with evidence of translation to English was available in respect of four of the five adults working in the service who had lived in another State for a period longer than six months.
- (4)
The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications 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.*
- (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.*
- (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)
During the inspection, an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (2)
On the 07 October 2025 the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Sixteen adults cared for the eighty-four children attending in the morning and sixteen adults cared for the seventy-three children in attendance in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available in the childcare facility at all times

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (1)
Adequate clear floor space was provided for the children attending each of the six playrooms in the service on 07 October 2025.
- (2)
In accordance with schedule 7 of the regulations and in respect of the number and age range of children in attendance, adequate clear floor space was provided for the children in attendance in the baby room, the waddler room, the toddler room, the blossom room, the sunflower room and the poppy room.