

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE095		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Majella Nolan		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ballymaley, Barefield, Ennis, Co. Clare		
<b>Eircode:</b>	V95 TC6Y		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Majella Nolan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/12/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	8	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á. McCarthy		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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>	Not applicable		

### Description of service

Majella Nolan is a privately operated sessional service that was established in 2013. The service operates in an adapted building, adjacent to the owner's home in the outskirts of Ennis, County Clare. A play-based programme of care and education is facilitated Monday to Friday from 08:40 to 12:10 for children ranging in age from two to six years. The early years' service comprises of one care room. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the building.

### Staffing

Two adults are employed by the service. On the 03 December 2025 the registered provider and a second adult cared for the children in attendance. The adults held a Level 6 qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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 and safety. The regulations inspected included:

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

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (3)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 26- Fire safety measures (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28- Insurance

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. 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. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, the member of 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 registered provider was the person in charge and a person is available to deputise when required.

(b)

The registered provider was available during the inspection.

(2)

Two files were available in respect of the adults working in the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

Three validated references from past employers in respect of the adults working in the service were available.

(b)

One validated reference was available from sources other than past employers in respect of the adults working in the service.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the adults currently working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

International police vetting was not required, as the adults working in the service had not lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## 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 inspection, an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.

(3)

On the 03 December 2025, the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Two adults cared for the eight children attending the service.

### 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.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

##### Basic Needs of Children:

The children's learning, development and well-being were observed to be supported by the adults. The adults treated the children with positive regard. This was observed through the adults using soft tones of voice and positive behavioural strategies during all interactions with the children. The children led the programme of care and education and were informed in advance of transitions in the programme. Children were encouraged to be independent with their personal belongings, during play periods, mealtime and while using the toilet. The children's individual cues for assistance were responded to promptly and in a sensitive manner.

Mealtime took place in a covered section in the outdoor area and was observed to be a sociable and relaxed occasion. The adults and children sat together and conversed amicably. The children engaged in various forms of challenging play and learning that included: imaginative, manipulative, constructive, sensory and creative play. The children transitioned from tabletop Montessori based and music activities, to song, rhyme and story time, mealtime, engagement in sensory activities with pretend snow and small figures and modelling clay and constructive play with stickle bricks and large blocks. The children were observed to thoroughly enjoy their time in the service.

##### Physical and Material Environment:

The indoor and outdoor environments provided an experience that was developmentally challenging, diverse, creative and enriching for the children. The indoor area was laid out with distinct interest areas offering a bright space for different forms of play and learning activities. The care room had low level shelving, tables and chairs that were accessible to the children. Defined areas of interest with a large range of supporting accessories included: a home and shop corner, a musical treasure box, an area for rest and relaxation with seating and a large range of reading materials. A sensory area and shelving units accommodated a large range of play materials and equipment

that were appropriate for the age range and the developmental level of the children in attendance. The children's artwork was displayed in the room.

An enclosed outdoor play area was located to the rear of the building offering a space for the children to freely engage in play-based activities. The enclosed outdoor play area had a natural grass surface with a range of suitably equipped resources. The area had activity units, a slide, a vehicle, a balance beam, tricycles, bikes and a playhouse and a large box with additional play-based equipment and materials.

### 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 to the service was secured to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor play area was secured with a wall and a gate to protect the children within.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The children's arrival and departure were recorded daily. The adults supervised the children at all times during the inspection.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lined, lidded pedal operated bins.
- The children washed their hands at regular intervals after using the toilet and activities and before mealtime.
- The adults encouraged the children to clean their noses and promoted good hygiene etiquette.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection.
- The registered provider stated that medication is not routinely administered by the service.

##### Fire Safety:

- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service and clearly identified with signage.
- Evidence of completed monthly fire drills was available in the service.
- The adults readily identified the location of the fire assembly point.

**Outing:**

- The manager confirmed that outings are not undertaken by the service.

### 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)

An adult working directly with the children held a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b)

The first aid box was available in the service for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

### 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)

Records of completed monthly fire drills were available. The most recent fire drill took place on the 06 November 2025.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system maintenance service took place on the 18 November 2025.

(4)

A fire action notice demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at the entry/exit points in the building.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for twenty-two children attending the service. The policy is valid until 27 March 2026.