Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report
Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE115

Name of Service:	Redeemers Preschool

Address of Service:	131 Dun na hInse, Lahinch Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

Eircode:	V95 WE51

Name of Registered Provider:	Ruth Ogundare

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection:	18/03/2026
Date of Regulatory compliance meeting:	29/04/2026

No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	14

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 & A. 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

Description of service

Redeemers Preschool was established in 2007, as a privately operated service in Ennis, County Clare. A full day, part time and sessional service is provided for children ranging in age from one to six years. The service operates Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 17:30. Three care rooms are located in an adapted single storey building and a fourth care room is located in a prefabricated structure to the rear of the service.

An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the service.

Staffing

Eight adults are employed by the service. On the 18 March 2026 five adults cared for sixteen pre-school children in the morning, and four adults cared for fourteen pre-school children in the afternoon. The registered provider had an administrative role in the service on 18 March 2026. An adult is employed in the service for the care of the school age children, and an adult is currently undertaking an induction programme for working in the service.

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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (3), (4)

Regulation 10- Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

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

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service (h)(i)(j)(k)

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

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

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

Regulation 29 – Premises (c)

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.

Additional Information

Immediate Action Notice-Safety:

18 March 2026

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

A Safety Immediate action notice was handed to the registered provider onsite in relation to a potential risk of strangulation to pre-school children. An unsecured looped cord blind was observed in the sleep room in the main building adjacent to children's sleep beds.

This non-compliance was found previously on inspections on 16 and 21 October 2025 and 08 December 2025 and an immediate action notice was issued on 09 December 2025. The corrective and preventive actions and measures outlined by the registered provider following these inspections had not been implemented.

19 March 2026:

A response was received from the service which outlined the measures taken to mitigate the significant risk. Please refer to Regulation 23 in the body of the report.

Referral to other agencies:

23 March 2026:

An Environmental Health Department referral in relation food safety and hygiene concerns was issued to the Clare Environmental Health Service.

Regulatory compliance meeting:

29 April 2026:

A regulatory compliance meeting was convened with the Inspection and Registration Manager and attended by the registered provider. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the immediate action notice issued, the outstanding and recurring non compliances and the inadequate corrective and preventive action response received for each non-compliance.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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,

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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)

On the 18 March 2026, the registered provider was the person in charge, and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The registered provider and a named person to deputise were available at all times during the inspection.

(2)

Eight files were reviewed in respect of the adults employed and working in the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

Eight of the sixteen references required in respect of eight adults were sourced from a past employer. Evidence of validation was available in relation to six of these eight references.

(b)

Eight of the sixteen references required in respect of eight adults were provided from a source other than a past employer. Evidence of validation was available in relation to six of these eight references.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of all adults employed by the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Evidence of translated International Police vetting documentation was provided in respect of six of the seven adults who had lived outside of the jurisdiction for a period of time longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

The eight adults who required a childcare qualification working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications at Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)

Evidence of validation was not available in relation to two of the eight past employer references.

(b)

Evidence of validation was not available in relation to two of the eight references from sources other than past employers.

(d)

Evidence of translation of international police vetting was not available in respect of one adult who had lived outside of the jurisdiction for a period of time longer than six months.

The potential risk of not having adults appropriately vetted may allow adults who are inappropriate to have access to children.

(3)

Four adults were appointed and allowed access to the children attending the pre-school service prior to the required references being validated and assessed by the service. Not appropriately vetting all adults prior to being assigned or allowed access to or contact with children, could impact the health and safety of children in their care.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)

The adult whose past employer references were not validated is no longer employed in the service.

(b)

The two references from sources other than past employers have been validated.

(d)

The police vetting document has been translated.

(3)

All adults will be appropriately vetted prior to commencing in the service.

Staff documentation is reviewed and verified and documented and also the registered provider stated that she briefed all staff concerned to submit remaining documentation.

Recruitment procedures have been put in place and will be implemented going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)

No documentation required.

(b)

Validated references submitted.

(d)

The translated police vetting document was submitted.

(3)

Recruitment policy and procedures were submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider through the corrective and preventive action (CAPA) response and the evidence submitted following the regulatory compliance meeting, have addressed the non-compliances identified. These actions will be assessed at the next inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff
Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service
A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure that all the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 were in place for the service.

- The service policy document provided by the registered provider was dated February 2026. Of the nineteen policies required only fourteen were available. The available policies were incomplete.
- A separate policy document dated November 2025 was available on the premises however the registered provider advised that this policy document was now outdated and no longer relevant to the service.
- The registered provider stated that the staff working in the service had received training in relation to these policies however the procedures outlined in the policies were not in line with best practice guidance or the facilities provided within the service and service provision.
- The policy document dated February 2026 referenced two early years services, which are not operated by the registered provider, and detailed named staff working within these services.

This non-compliance was also found on the previous inspections of 16 and 21 October and 08 December 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has updated the policy documents to ensure all requirements are included within the policies. The adults working in the service have received training in the updated policies. The policy documents are accessible to all the staff, volunteers and all parents.

Supporting documentation submitted

Updated policy documents.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider through the corrective and preventive action (CAPA) response and the evidence submitted following the regulatory compliance meeting, have addressed the non-compliances identified. These actions will be assessed at the next inspection.