

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE115
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Redeemers Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	131 Dun na hInse, Lahinch Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V95 WE51
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ruth Ogundare
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	08/12/2025
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<b>Date of Regulatory Compliance Meeting:</b>	15/12/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	16
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<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>	J. Hayes & Á. McCarthy
<b>Title:</b>	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 is a privately operated service which was established in 2007 in Ennis, County Clare. It is registered to provide full day, part time and sessional care for children ranging in age from one to six years. The service operates Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 18:00. The care rooms are located in an adapted single storey building and in a prefabricated structure to the rear of the service. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the service.

### Staffing

Seven adults are currently employed by the service. On the 08 December 2025 five adults cared for seventeen children in the morning and sixteen children in the afternoon. The registered provider has an administrative role and also works 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, safety and premises and facilities. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations: The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

- Regulation 8- Notification of change in circumstances (1)
- Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (2)(d) and (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 (1)(h)(i)(k)
- Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child
- Regulation 25- First aid (1)
- Regulation 26- Fire safety measures (1)(b)
- Regulation 29 –Premises(e)
- Regulation 30 Minimum space requirements (1)(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.

### Additional Information

This inspection was triggered as the non compliances identified, and immediate action notices issued on the last inspection of 16 and 21 October 2025 had not been addressed through an adequate corrective and preventive action response.

The registered provider was invited to attend a Regulatory Compliance Meeting with the Inspection Registration Manager on 03, 12 and 15 December 2025 however the registered provider was unavailable to attend on these dates.

### **08 December 2025**

Three Immediate Action Notices (IAN) were issued to the person in charge to respond to significant risks found with regard to hot water temperatures and hot surface temperature of a radiator under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child under General Safety.

An IAN was issued to the registered provider in relation to these risks on the previous inspection of 16 and 21 October 2025. Remedial measures taken, as stated by the registered provider had failed to mitigate the risks.

### **09 December 2025**

An IAN was issued to the registered provider to respond to significant recurring risks found under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child under General Safety. These risks related to unsecured blind cords found in the playrooms and a sleep room on inspection on 16 and 21 October 2025 and 08 December 2025.

### **10 and 11 December 2025**

A reminder was issued to the registered provider as a response had not been received in relation to the IAN's issued on the 08 December 2025.

A response was received for the IAN issued on 09 December 2025 stating that actions had been taken to mitigate the risk however, evidence of same was not submitted. A request was issued to the registered provider to forward evidence of the actions taken.

### **12 December 2025**

A response was received from the registered provider outlining some of the measures taken to remedy the significant risks.

The registered provider stated that a plumber was to attend the service on 12 December 2025 to review the hot water temperatures.

Photographs were submitted as evidence that the risks associated with the hanging blind cords have been addressed.

No response was submitted in relation to the high surface temperature of the radiator.

A letter of invite for a regulatory compliance meeting with the Inspection Registration Manager was issued to the registered provider for Monday 15 December.

### 15 December 2025

A regulatory compliance meeting with the Inspection Registration Manager was facilitated with the registered provider to discuss the immediate action notices issued and the outstanding and recurring non compliances.

### 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 II - Registration and Register

### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

### Compliance Information

(1)  
The service was noted to be operating within its registration status. On 08 December 2025 all children attending were over the age of 1 year.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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-*

*(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

(2)(d)

The outstanding international police vetting required in respect of one adult was available on file.

(4)

All adults currently working in the service hold an Early childhood Care and Education qualification at a minimum of Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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 current policies for the service were not provided upon request by the inspectors on 08 December 2025. This non-compliance was found on the last inspection of 16 and 21 October 2025. The person in charge presented a handbook of policies dated 2023. This at variance with the information provided by the registered provider advising that the service policies had been updated after the last inspection in October 2025.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The policies have been updated and made simple for the staff and family to read and understand.

The policies are accessible at all times in a designated location within the service.

Policies will be accessible and the present staff will go through it and adhere to the policy and regulations. The manager will hold a meeting monthly for reminders.

The policies will be reviewed every two years.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the service policies was submitted.

#### Summary Comment

Based on the registered providers response the non compliance remains outstanding as a copy of the updated policies has been submitted however these policies are unclear and repetitive and do not specify the practices and procedures to be followed. The policies will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### 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 of 08 December 2025 an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (2)  
On the 08 December 2025 the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained in the service. Five adults worked directly with the 17 children in attendance in the morning and five adults worked directly with the 16 children attending in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)  
During the inspection there were more than two adults available in the childcare facility.

## 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:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(h)

The details of the arrival and departure times of pre-school children were not recorded and maintained accurately. The children’s arrival at the service was not recorded consistently upon their arrival.

This may pose a risk to the safety of children in the event of an emergency. This is a recurring non-compliance from the last inspection of 16 and 21 October 2025 and no remedial actions had been taken to address same.

(i)

The staff roster did not detail the adult’s full names and break times or details of the relief cover during break times. On 08 December 2025 the finish times for the adults was not recorded on the roster. This is a recurring non-compliance from the last inspection of 16 and 21 October 2025 and no remedial actions had been taken to address same.

(k)

The accident and incident records were reviewed from last inspection. Three of the four available records involving pre-school children in 2025 were not signed by a parent or guardian of the children as required after the incident occurred.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

(1)(h) The registered provider will make sure all attendance records or daily register is kept within the rooms. The attendance will be in each room daily away from the reach of children for prompt marking. The preschool has a valid daily attendance register and recently designed new ones for the coming year.

(i) No response received.

(k) No response received.

## Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(h) No evidence submitted

(i) No evidence submitted

(k) No evidence submitted

## Summary Comment

Based on the registered providers response the non compliance remains outstanding as a copy of the staff roster and signed accident and incident records was not submitted. The attendance records, staff roster and accident and incident forms will be reviewed on the next inspection

## 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 trampoline that posed a risk to children attending the service on 16 and 21 October 2021 is no longer in use and has been removed from the outdoor play area.

There were no baby walkers observed in the service, the baby walker that was observed in the outdoor play area on inspection of 16 and 21 October has been removed.

### Infection Control:

Sleep beds were removed from storage in the sanitary accommodation next to the nappy changing units.

A towelling cloth that was previously used on the nappy changing mat has now been removed.

Waterproof covers were provided on the four sleep beds in the sleep room.

### Fire Safety:

Stair gates which were fitted to the doors of the three playrooms, a sleep room and an office in the main building have been removed.

The fire exit routes from the building and the fire assembly point were clearly identified with signage.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

Immediate action notices were issued in relation to points 1, 2 and 3.

1. The hot water temperatures at the children's wash hand basins in the main building and in the prefabricated structure were not thermostatically controlled.

The recorded high temperatures of 51°C and 57°C respectively posed a risk of a scald injury to a child.

These temperatures were above the recommended safe temperature of 43°C.

This is a recurring non compliance from the inspection dated 16 and 21 October 2025. An immediate action notice was issued on 16 October 2025 in relation to this non compliance and the registered provider responded that a plumber had been engaged by the service. The corrective and preventive action as stated by the registered provider did not address the non-compliance. Immediate action notices were issued again on 08 December 2025.

2. The electric radiator in the wobbler room in the prefabricated structure had a surface temperature recorded at 58°C which posed a risk of a burn injury to a child. This is a recurring non-compliance from the inspection dated 16 and 21 October 2025. An unsecured metal grid was placed in front of the radiator however this did not prevent children accessing the radiator.

An immediate action notice was issued on 08 December 2025.

3. Loose blind cords were dangling at the windows and accessible to children in the ECCE, Toddler, Play based and sleep rooms which posed a risk of strangulation to a child. This is a recurring non-compliance from the inspection dated 16 and 21 October 2025.

An immediate action notice was issued on 09 December 2025.

4. The safety harnesses attached to two of the seven highchairs observed in the service were broken and not safe for use by children due to the risk of a child falling from the highchairs.

5. Four large cot mattresses were inappropriately stored on top of a playhouse in the outdoor play area used by the children attending the Wobbler care room. These mattresses posed a risk of falling on the children and causing an injury.

#### Infection Control:

The following points posed a risk of cross infection and are recurring non compliances from the inspection dated 16 and 21 October 2025;

6. Four containers of ointments were not individually labelled. These were located on a shelf next to the nappy changing unit.
7. Four sleep beds were located within a measurement range of 25cm and 29cm of each other in the sleep room and did not have the required 50cm space between the beds to prevent a risk of cross infection.
8. A pedal operated bin was not provided in the children's sanitary accommodation in the main building.

### Safe Sleep:

The following practices are at variance with safe sleep best practice guidance and are recurring non compliances from the inspection dated 16 and 21 October 2025.

9. The adults did not remain in the sleep room while children ranging in age from 16 months to 23 months slept on low level sleep beds. This posed a risk of safety to the sleeping children.
10. The four sleep beds used by the children in the sleep room contained thick, heavy blankets which were placed over the children as they slept. This posed a risk of safety to sleeping children.
11. A wall mounted thermometer which could not be calibrated to ensure its accuracy, was used in the sleep room as the only means of monitoring the room temperature.

### Fire Safety:

The following posed a potential risk to impede the safe evacuation of children and adults in the event of a fire and are recurring non compliances from the inspection dated 16 and 21 October 2025.

12. The door in the entrance hall of the service had a latch fitted to the outside which was opened and closed from the inside through a cutout hatch in the door. This door also had a bolt fitted to the top of the door on the inside.
13. The fire exit route at the side of the premises which facilitates evacuation from the service in the event of a fire was partially blocked by a plastic temporary partition and two gates one of which was very difficult to open.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The registered provider stated that a plumber would attend the service on 12 December 2025 and adjust the water. A digital thermometer to monitor the water temperatures has been ordered and the service is expecting delivery of this by Tuesday 23rd December 2025.

This will serve as water temperature checker, Radiator checker and Sleeping Room daily checker as advised by the plumber. Interim measures have been put in place while waiting on the plumber. The service switched off the hot water at every 25-30min to make sure the temperature goes down for usage. Close monitoring will be carried out by a designated staff to make sure the time is taken into consideration.

2. The room radiator will be switched off and on within 25-30 minutes pending the time the electrician will call out to the service.
3. The blind cords have been completely detached and cut off. The blind company will be contacted for better and safe blinds without cords.
4. Two new highchairs have been replaced and will be checked continually to remove any broken or damaged high chairs away from the children.
5. No response received

### Infection Control:

6. The children's individual creams have been labelled and the staff received training.
7. The new layout of distance of 90cms between sleep beds has been adhered to, the wobbler classroom is multi-use, the children will have their activities from 8.30am to 11am after the meal, the room will be cleaned up and set-up as a second sleeping room for children aged between 12 to -24 months.
8. All classrooms have pedal bins.

### Safe Sleep:

9. Staff will adhere to the new change and training and have been reminded to keep to the new sleeping rules within the service. Designated staff will check on the children while asleep every 10 minutes, with a tailored sleep log in the book for each child to monitor them.
10. No response received.
11. A new thermometer has been purchased.

### Fire Safety:

12. No response received.
13. The escape route will be clear. The white side gate will be kept open every morning and there is a steel iron gate for children's safety.

## Supporting documentation submitted

### General Safety:

1. A photograph of the water temperature measuring 41.9°C. This was taken when the plumber last visited the service following the October inspection.
2. No evidence submitted.
3. A photograph of the cut blind cords.
4. No evidence submitted.
5. No evidence submitted.

### Infection Control:

6. Photograph of children's individual creams which have been labelled.
7. Photograph of increased distance between sleep beds and the use of a second room for sleep purposes.
8. Photograph of pedal operated bins.

### Safe Sleep:

9. No evidence submitted.
10. No evidence submitted.
11. Specification sheet for new thermometer.

### Fire Safety:

12. No evidence submitted.
13. Copy of email confirmation from fire safety company stating an L1 fire alarm system has been installed and emergency lighting has been installed and commissioned. Video of demonstration of fire alarm system in the service.

## Summary Comment

The actions as stated address the non compliances identified, however evidence to support 6 of the 13 actions taken by the registered provider have not been submitted. These will be assessed on next 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

An adult was available in the service with evidence of First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*

*(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment took place on the 29 September 2025.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

A record of the maintenance of the fire detection system was not available in the service.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The provider engaged a fire safety company to install a fire alarm system.

The service will be vigilant and remind the company for servicing twice yearly.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of email confirmation from fire safety company stating an L1 fire alarm system has been installed.

#### Summary Comment

The non compliance under Regulation 26(1)(b) has been addressed.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

(e)  
There were a sufficient number of wash hand basins available in the sanitary accommodations for the number of children attending the service. A second wash hand basin was installed in the nappy changing/children's sanitary facility.

## 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 the service on 08 December 2025.

(2)  
On 08 December 2025 adequate space was provided for the children attending the Wobbler room, Play based room, Toddler room and ECCE room. The room which was previously used as a staff office on 16 and 21 October 2025 is now used as the Play based room. This room measured 9.6m<sup>2</sup>.