

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE118
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Name of Service:	Room to Bloom Kids Care
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Address of Service:	Scoil Chríost Rí, Cloughleigh, Ennis, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95YD26
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Name of Registered Provider:	Hazel O'Connor
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	18/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	A. McCarthy
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

Room to Bloom Kids Care was established in 2015 and moved to the current building in 2020. The service is located within a purpose built, two storey primary school in Scoil Chríost Rí, Cloughleigh, Ennis, County Clare. The care room is located on the ground floor, and the children enter and exit the building by a side exit. The service facilitates a play based sessional programme of care Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 and from 12:30 to 15:30. The programme of care and education is facilitated in an open plan room and in the outdoor play area which is located to the side of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider and four adults are employed by the service. On the 18 November 2025 the registered provider and four adults cared for eighteen children in the morning and fifteen children in the afternoon. The registered provider worked directly with the children and undertook managerial duties. The adults working directly with the children held appropriate qualifications on the National Framework of Qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education. The adults held records of engagement in continuing professional development.

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)(2)(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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes 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, 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 and the deputy were present throughout the inspection.

(b)

The staff roster indicated that the registered provider and the deputy were available at all times during the operation of the service.

(2)

Five files were available in respect of the registered provider and the adults working in the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

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

(b)

Four of the ten required written and validated reference were obtained from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 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)

International police vetting was available in respect of one adult working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held an Early Childhood Care and Education qualification ranging from Level 6 to Level 8 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)

The minimum ratios of adults supervising children was maintained. On the 18 November 2025 four adults supervised eighteen children in attendance in the morning and fifteen children in the afternoon.

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 inspector observed that the adults supported the children's learning, development and well-being. The adults interacted in a kind and caring manner with the children, responded to their individual needs promptly and provided regular praise and encouragement throughout the session. The adults cared for the children in a sensitive manner and responded promptly to the children's cues for comfort. The children were supported to be independent in play, during toileting, caring for their personal belongings and at mealtime. The children were treated with positive regard during all interactions, and the adults demonstrated a good knowledge of the children's individual preferences and capabilities. The children were supported in accordance with their preference on an individual level and as part of the group. Speech and sound development was promoted by all the adults during discussions, songs, rhymes and through games played. The programme of care and education was guided by the children and the adults notified the children in advance of transitions in activities. The children transitioned from open ended play, circle time discussions, songs and dance to mealtime, outdoor play, to construction, pretend, sensory and creative play-based activities. The adults and children sat together during mealtime. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion. Two tables with "Help Yourself" signs and plates of fruit, vegetables and snacks were accessible at all times to the children.

Physical and Material Environment:

The indoor and outdoor environments were bright, spacious and suitably resourced for the age range and developmental needs of the children in attendance. The children were observed to thoroughly enjoy the activities. The playroom offered a large range of enriching experiences and resources and was laid out with low level shelving, tables and chairs that were accessible to the children. The areas of interest in the room included: table and floor-based activities. Additional inviting areas included: reading/library areas, construction play areas, home corner, an art area, puzzles, manipulative play areas, small world areas and a dress up area. The walls in the playroom displayed visual learning aids for the children and their art and craft activities.

Two enclosed outdoor play areas with a synthetic surface and natural grass surface were located to the side of the building, offering well-developed space for the children to freely engage in physical, imaginative, and creative play. Activity units, slides, sensory and plantar boxes and bubbles were available for use by the children. The children were observed enjoying the various activities available in the outdoor space.

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 by a key coded and bell operated system to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor play area was secured with high level fencing and gates to protect the children within.
- The children’s arrival and departure times were recorded on the service’s childcare application device and the children were supervised at all times during the inspection.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lined, lidded pedal operated bins.

- The children washed their hands at regular intervals during the day after outdoor play, using the toilet and before mealtime.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered by the service.
- Documentation and an administration of medication policy was available in the event that medication is required.

Fire Safety:

- The service demonstrated evidence of completed monthly fire drills.
- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service and identifiable with signage.
- The adults and children readily identified the fire assembly point.

Outing:

- The registered provider stated that outings are not undertaken currently by the service. An outings policy is available should an outing take place going forward.

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)

Three adults working directly with the children held records of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.

(b)

The first aid box was available in the care room 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)

A record for completed monthly fire drills was available. A fire drill took place during the inspection.

(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 took place respectively on the 16 September 2025 and 20 August 2025.

(4)

Fire action notices 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 sessional service. The insurance policy is valid until 27 March 2026.