

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE134
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Sunrise Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Kilfarboy House, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V95 TF83
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Julie Zgoda
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/06/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	10	PM	9
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J. Hayes
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Sunrise childcare first opened in 2011 as a privately-operated part-time early years service. It caters for a maximum of 11 pre-school children between the ages of 2- 5 years. The service is open Monday-Friday 09.00hrs - 14.00hrs. The premises are located in a rural setting near the town of Miltown Malbay in the west of the county. The premises was converted from use as an outbuilding to use as a childcare facility. It is a single storey structure with childcare provided in one large playroom. A kitchen and dining area are also available. A large enclosed outdoor play area is located to the front of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider operates the service singlehandedly.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

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

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (3) (8)(a)

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 28 – Insurance

Regulation 29 Premises

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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 designated person in charge.

(b) During the period of inspection, the designated person in charge was available on the premises.

(2) (a) Validated references from past employers were available for the adult who worked in the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, references from a source other than a previous employer were provided.

(c) A vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 was available for the adult. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was provided for one adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months.

(4) The adult held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) (a) The service did not have a named person available to deputise as required.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a) A childcare worker has been employed to be the named person who is able to deputise as required.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(a) A contract of employment was submitted.

### Summary Comment

Based on the evidence submitted the noncompliance under Regulation 9(1)(a) has been addressed.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(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

(2) On the day of Inspection there was 1 adult working with 10 pre-school children in the morning for the sessional service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2) An adequate number of adults were not working with the children at all times. One adult was working directly with 9 children who attended for more than 3hrs in the afternoon when 2 adults were required for a part time service.

(8)(a) There was not a minimum of 2 adults on the premises at all times. There was one adult working directly with the children for the duration of the part time service.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) A childcare worker has been employed to address the ratios of adult to children

(8)(a) Two adults will be working in the service at all times during hours of operation.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(2), (8)(a) A contract of employment was submitted in respect of the adult that has commenced working in the service.

### Summary Comment

Based on the evidence submitted the non-compliances under Regulation 11(2) and (8)(a) have been addressed.

## 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, and*

### Compliance Information

#### Basic Needs:

The children's basic needs were carefully considered in the daily activities. A healthy eating policy was in place, with parents providing healthy snacks and drinks which were stored in the refrigerator until required. Children and staff sat together at a large table with benches for the mealtime which provided an opportunity for casual conversations. Drinking water was readily available to the children throughout the morning. The children's toilet was easily accessible to the playroom which ensured the children could access this area independently. Spare clothes, tissues, wipes, and proper waste disposal (foot pedal bins) were available at all times. Good personal hygiene practices were observed where children washed their hands before snack break and after toileting and outdoor play. Designated rest and quiet areas were available in the room which consisted of a large adult sized

couch, cushions and floor mats. Children could also hide, play and have some time alone in areas in the room such as the tepee tent with soft seating or magic show theatre area with soft lighting. These spaces were observed to be used by children when they decided they wanted to opt out of an activity and have some quiet time alone. The registered provider and the children were engaged in a range of activities indoors and predominantly outdoors during the day. The atmosphere was calm, the children's needs were attended to as required and the children were fully engaged in their activities and chatted with the adult about the activities they were engaged in. Suitable outdoor clothing was provided and the adult provided assistance to children if required when preparing for outdoor play.

### Physical and Material Environment:

Children spent a large part of the day in a spacious and well-laid out outdoor play environment which had a wide range of toys, equipment and materials accessible to the children. Children had space to run, climb, kick football, chase each other, play with sensory materials, engage in water play and messy play and engage in team activities such as tug of war. Children were facilitated to engage with nature by planting and gardening and caring for the animals. The children enjoyed eating the fruit they had grown such as strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. In the room play equipment and materials were arranged to provide several separate developed interest areas. There was a reading/relaxing area with a display shelf for picture and story books and soft floor seating. A home corner section contained play cookers, play foods and household objects. There was an open shelf section where pencils, crayons and paper were accessible to the children to support mark making activities. The organisation of the play environment supported children's independence and self-directed play. All of the play resources were visible and accessible to the children on open low level shelving units or as part of a themed interest area. Appropriate seating and tables were interspersed throughout the room which ensured that children could choose between being mobile, playing at tables or choose floor play activities. The children were observed to enjoy a t-shirt tie dyeing activity as part of the preparation for the end of year ceremony.

## 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:

Adequate measures were taken at the service to ensure a safe, secure, and well-monitored environment for all preschool children.

**Controlled Access:** The entrance door was secured, with entry managed by the adult in the premises.

**Emergency Exits:** All fire doors were unobstructed and clear.

**Safe Play Equipment:** Toys and play materials were age-appropriate, well-maintained, and free from hazards like pinch points, crush points, or sharp edges.

**Proper Waste Disposal:** Waste was kept inaccessible indoors and outdoors, with foot pedal-operated, lidded bins ensuring safe disposal.

**Chemical Safety:** Cleaning agents were stored out of children's reach on a high shelf.

**Outdoor Safety:** Exit gates were secured to prevent children from accessing unsafe areas, and supervision was continuous during outdoor play

### Infection Control:

A high standard of operational hygiene was observed throughout the service. Tabletops were cleaned and disinfected prior to snack time. Hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available at all sinks to ensure hygienic hand washing by staff and children.

### Fire Safety:

All fire doors were unobstructed and clear.

Fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis to ensure children were familiar with the evacuation plan in the event of an emergency

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for the adult in the service. However, the vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

## Corrective & Preventive Action

### General Safety:

An application has been submitted to renew the Garda vetting.

## Supporting documentation submitted

### General Safety:

The Garda vetting was completed on 6 November 2025

## Summary Comment

The non-compliance under Regulation 23 General safety has been addressed.

## 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 were available to indicate that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis. The most recent fire drill was recorded on 13 May 2025.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available on the premises. The last maintenance check for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms took place in May and June 2025 respectively.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on the premises

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider had a current insurance certificate which outlined that adequate insurance was available for 22 preschool children to attend the part time service. The insurance cover commenced on the 28 March 2025 and was due to expire on the 27 March 2026

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (a) The premises was renovated for the purposes of operating an early years service and appeared to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) Visitor access was managed by the registered provider and the entrance to the premises was secured.
- (c) The premises was well lit with natural and artificial lighting. There were openable windows on both sides of the play room which allowed for good natural lighting and ventilation. The room temperature was recorded at 21.7°C and was maintained within appropriate limits.
- (d) The premises was clean and well maintained and cleaning schedules were in place.
- (e) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for the children and the adult.