

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE136
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Name of Service:	Tara's Treasures
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Address of Service:	9 Cois na Ce, Cappa, Kilrush, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V15 X218
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tara Flynn
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	01/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	J Hayes
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).

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Description of service

This service was first notified in 2007. The sessional service is a privately run service on the outskirts of Kilrush town in West Clare. It caters for up to a maximum of 12 pre-school children aged between 2 and 6 years attending on a sessional basis. The service operates Monday-Fridays from 09:15 to 12:15.

Staffing

The registered provider operated the sessional service and was assisted by one adult on the day the inspection was carried out.

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/ 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) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11-Staffing levels (1) (3)

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

Regulation 25-First aid (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures (1)(a)(b) (4)

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Regulation 28-Insurance

Regulation 29-Premises (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)

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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 was available to deputise.

(b)

The registered provider was available during the inspection.

(2)

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

(a)

One written and validated reference from a past employer in respect of adults working in the service was available.

(b)

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Three written and validated references from a source other than a past employer were available in respect of adults working in the service

(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 the adult working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 7 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 01 May 2026 the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Two adults cared for the eleven children in attendance.

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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

(1)(a)

The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment having regard to the age and developmental stage of the children.

Basic Needs

The healthy eating policy of the service was available and shared with parents, which supported children and parents to choose healthy foods. Drinking water was available both indoors and outdoors throughout the day if a child was thirsty and needed a drink.

The children toileted independently, with assistance given to those who needed it. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times during the day, such as after toileting and outdoor play and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation area accessed directly from the pre-school room.

The children could rest and relax as desired in the designated quiet space in the service.

The children enjoyed freedom of movement within the playroom and were active and engaged in learning in the outdoor area where play activities were child led for the most part.

Outdoor play was very well supported and encouraged throughout the morning, with all children very happily engaged in a variety of activities in the well resourced outdoor space. Children could move about freely and developed their coordination, balance and strength through running, jumping and climbing and an adult led exercise routine. The children's imagination and curiosity was stimulated through the exploration of nature in the form of a birds nest with new born chicks and snails in shells.

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

The adults interacted with the children in a kind and respectful manner. The adults listened attentively and conversed with the children at their level and responded promptly to their cues for assistance. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions, and the children were offered praise and encouragement. The adults demonstrated an awareness of the children's preferences, personal interests and capabilities. The adults supported

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the children in individual and group play based activities throughout the programme and engaged in open ended discussions.

The children were notified in advance of transitions in activities, and their social interactions were supported by adults through turn taking collaboration and group games. Staff were observed to be interested in the children, listened to them and spoke to them using soft tones of voice and positive language, engaging them in conversation and gave each child the opportunity to express themselves. Children's opinions were sought, and their decisions respected which reflected that they were valued

An open-door policy for parents/guardians was in place for the service. An informal communication approach was observed during interactions with parents/guardians. The adults were warmly welcomed into the service at collection time and the children's activities of the day and observations were shared with them.

Photographic evidence of activities undertaken, and art portfolios were available to share with parents and helped support a sense of working in partnership with parents.

Individual booklets for children were developed by the service to help share each child's learning journey as they move from pre-school to primary school.

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)

One adult working in the service held a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

An adequately stocked first aid box was readily accessible in the playroom.

(b)

The first aid box was available to the children at all times.

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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 monthly record was available of the fire drills carried out in the service. The record indicated that the most recent fire drill took place on 14 April 2026.

(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 on the 29 August 2025.

(4)

Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at the 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 eleven children attending on a sessional basis. The policy is valid until 27 March 2027.

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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 appeared to be of sound structure with no visible defects.
- (b)
The entrance and exit doors were secured to prevent children from exiting and to prevent unauthorised access. The outdoor area was fenced and walled.
- (c)
Heating, ventilation and lighting were adequate in each area of the service.
- (d)
The playroom and sanitary areas were clean and well maintained with daily and weekly cleaning schedules in place.
- (e)
Suitable sanitary facilities were available for both the adults and children. The children had access to sanitary facilities at the entrance to the playroom. The sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped with a child sized toilet and a wash hand basin at child's level. Hygienic hand washing and hand drying facilities were available. All waste was managed appropriately.