

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE138
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Teach Abhaile
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	21 Kevin Barry Avenue, Tulla Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V95 R598
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Connie Hannon
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	16/06/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	37	PM	6
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Ennis Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare. V95TY4E
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Hayes
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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

Teach Abhaile naíonra and pre-school first opened in 2013 and is currently operating a sessional early years service. It caters for up to a maximum number of 44 pre-school children between the ages of 2- 6 yrs. The service is open Monday-Friday 08.30hrs -11.45hrs and offers a play led learning programme through the medium of the Irish in the Naíonra and English in the English Pre School. The premises are located in an urban setting on the outskirts of Ennis town. The building is converted from a domestic dwelling to a childcare facility. It is a single storey structure with childcare provided in five playrooms which were all in use on the day of inspection. Three enclosed outdoor play areas are located at each end and at the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the person in charge of the service and nine adults worked directly with the children attending on 16 June 2025.

### 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 premises and facilities.

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) (2) (8)(a)

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

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, 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 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)(a)

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

(b)

Five 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 ten 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 for five adults working in the service, who had lived in another State for a period longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications at Level 5 to 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.*

*(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 an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (2)  
On the 16 June 2025 the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Ten adults cared for the thirty seven children in the morning and six adults cared for the six children in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)  
The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available in the service at all times.

### 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 stage of development of the children.

#### Basic Needs of Children:

The adults treated the children in a kind and caring manner and positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions. The adults conversed with the children in a respectful manner, using soft tones of voice, engaged with the children at their level and responded promptly to their cues for assistance and comfort. The children were encouraged to be independent in play and learning, whilst caring for their belongings and using the toilet.

The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their age and level of development. The adults supervised the children during toileting and provided assistance if required. The children were encouraged to feed themselves and the adults sat with children during mealtime and encouraged a sociable unhurried environment through conversations while the children ate their lunches.

The children in each room were offered a range of developmentally challenging play and learning activities, and the children were observed to be fully engaged and included in all activities. The children transitioned from the indoor to the outdoor areas freely and had opportunities child initiated free play which was facilitated and supported by the adults.

A key person approach was observed in each care room, the staff demonstrated an appropriate level of knowledge of the children's preferences, interests, and individual capabilities. The adults followed the children's lead in the care rooms, and the children were supported in individual and group play. Colourful visual learning aids and photographic daily routines and attendance charts were displayed in the childcare facility. The children were notified and consulted in advance of changes in the activities. The transitions in the programme of care were completed cohesively and in a calm manner in the care rooms. The adults offered praise and encouragement, and children were respected and supported in their choice of individual and group engagement in activities.

### 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 22 children attending on a sessional basis. The policy is valid until 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) There were no visible defects within the premises.
- (b) There was secure access to the premises through two gates which were opened internally by staff who supervised all access to the premises.
- (c) During the inspection the service was adequately lit by natural and artificial sources of light. The care rooms and sanitary facilities were ventilated by natural means of ventilation. The room temperatures were maintained within the recommended levels of 18°Celsius to 22°Celsius. The care room temperature was recorded as 21.2°Celsius.
- (d) The indoor and outdoor environment was maintained in clean and hygienic condition.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided for the children in attendance and the adults working in the service. There were 4 toilets and 4 wash hand basins provided for the children and 1 toilet with 1 wash hand basin available for the adults use.

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