

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE150		
Name of Service:	Tulla Community Preschool		
Address of Service:	Old Boys School, Main Street, Tulla, Co. Clare		
Eircode:	V95 VY80		
Name of Registered Provider:	Amanda Corrigan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	02/12/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM N/A
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:	Á. 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

Tulla Community Preschool was first notified as a sessional service in 1997. The service currently accommodates children ranging in age from two years eight months to six years. A programme of care and education is facilitated in one room within the old boy's school premises which is known as the community centre in Tulla village in County Clare. The service operates Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 for 38 weeks of the year. An enclosed outdoor play area is located at the rear of the building and a large hall is located adjacent to the preschool room for use by the children.

Staffing

Three adults are employed by the service. The registered provider is a member of the board of management and does not work directly with the children.

On the 02 December 2025 three adults worked directly with the children in attendance. The adults working directly with the children hold Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from level 6 to level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. The staff files demonstrated the adult's engagement in continuous 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)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 26- Fire safety measures (1)(2)(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 person in charge, the members of 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 manager was the person in charge, and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The manager and the deputy were available during the inspection.

(2)

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

(a)

Five validated references from past employers in respect of the adults working in the service were available.

- (b)
Three validated references were available from sources other than past employers in respect of the adults working in the service.
- (c)
Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and the three adults currently working in 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 Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications 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)
On the 02 December 2025, the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Three adults cared for the thirteen children attending the service.

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 children's learning, development and well-being were observed to be supported by the adults. The adults cared for the children in a kind and respectful manner. This was observed through the adults using soft tones of voice and offering praise and encouragement consistently. Positive behavioural strategies were used during all interactions with the children. The children were notified in advance of changes in activities and the transitions were completed with ease. Children were encouraged to be independent with caring for their personal belongings, during play periods, mealtime and while using the toilet. The children's individual cues for assistance were responded to promptly and in a sensitive manner. Mealtime was observed to be a sociable and relaxed occasion. The adults and children sat together and conversed amicably. The children engaged in various forms of challenging play and learning that included imaginative, manipulative, constructive, sensory and creative play. The children transitioned from open ended, tabletop, play based activities, to song, rhyme and story time, to movement breaks in the hall, to a penguin painting exercise and engagement in an obstacle course and dancing in the hall. The children were observed to thoroughly enjoy their time in the service.

Physical and Material Environment:

The indoor and outdoor environments provided an experience that was developmentally challenging, diverse, creative and enriching for the children. The indoor area was well-planned, laid out with distinct interest areas offering a bright space for different forms of play and learning activities. The care room was laid out with low level shelving, tables and chairs that were accessible to the children. The interest areas included: a construction and home corner, an area for rest and relaxation with seating and a large range of reading materials. An art area, a sensory area and shelving units accommodated developmentally appropriate play materials and equipment. The

walls displayed learning materials, numerical and alphabetical aids, birthday displays, children’s artwork, an emotions display used daily by the children and an overview of the emerging themes.

An enclosed outdoor play area was located to the rear of the building offering a space for the children to freely engage in physical, imaginative, creative and sensory play. The enclosed area had a rubberised synthetic surface with a range of suitably equipped resources. The play area included a wooden activity unit with swings, slides and climbing area, planters, two activities play units, large plastic building blocks and a pretend playhouse. The shed accommodated bikes, large and small ride on and push along vehicles, sensory play tables and a tunnel. During the inspection the children engaged in gross motor skills in the hall adjacent to the care room. Available equipment used by the children included a basketball net, soft mats, goalposts and a ball, hoops and fidget toys.

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 with a bell operated and camera surveillance system to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor play area was secured with fencing and a gate to protect the children within.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.
- Looped blind cords were secured and out of reach of children.
- The children’s arrival and departure were recorded daily. The adults supervised the children at all times during the inspection.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lined, lidded pedal operated bins.
- The children washed their hands at regular intervals after using the toilet and activities and before mealtime.
- The adults encouraged the children to clean their noses and promoted good hygiene etiquette.
- The manager demonstrated an awareness of the exclusion criteria for infectious diseases.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection.
- Documentation was available should medication be required.
- The adults demonstrated an understanding of the administration of medications policy.

Fire Safety:

- The adults working in the service held records of up-to-date fire safety training.
- The adults readily identified the location of the fire assembly point.
- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service and clearly identified with signage.

Outing:

- The manager confirmed that outings are not undertaken by the service.

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)

Two adults working directly with the children held a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b)

The first aid box was available in the service 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)

Records of completed monthly fire drills were available. The most recent fire drill took place on the 21 November 2025.

(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 maintenance service took place respectively on the 24 February 2025 and 11 June 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 service. The policy is valid until 27 March 2026.