

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CW010
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Respond Early Years Service, Slaney View
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Slaney View Drive, Tullow, Co. Carlow
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<b>Eircode:</b>	R93 V250
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Lisa O'Rourke
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	28/02/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	11	PM	3
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency Early Years Inspectorate Ely Hospital Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
<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

This full day care service is based in a housing estate in Tullow, County Carlow. The service provides childcare for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates between the hours of 09:00 and 15:00, Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year. The premises is a purpose-built childcare building comprised of two preschool rooms on the ground floor. There is a kitchen, office and dining area on the first floor. There are two outdoor play areas directly accessible from the service, one situated at the rear, and one to the right-hand side of service.

### Staffing

There are six staff employed in the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. All staff who were working directly with the children held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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 the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),  
Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,  
Regulation 22 Food and Drink,  
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (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. 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 person in charge, 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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was also a person available to deputise as required.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were six staff employed in the service. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection. All written and validated references were available on file in the service for all six staff.

(c)

There was evidence of Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

(d)

There were police vetting records available for two staff who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

All staff working directly with the preschool children who held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework

(7)(a)

The manager had ensured that all employees were appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and training to carry out their duties in the service. There was evidence on file in the service to show that staff had undertaken training in child protection and infection control in the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector said they had regular staff meetings where they were given appropriate information in relation to any issues in the service.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

All required policies procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 were available in the service. The policies reviewed on this inspection was the policy on infection control and healthy eating. Both policies were complete and specific to the service.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

There was at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service.

(2)

At 11:00

there were 11 children in the care of 5 staff.

At 13:30

There were 3 children in the care of 2 staff.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 17 – Information for parents

*A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).*

#### Compliance Information

The service provided parents with a parent handbook to include information regarding the service ethos, curriculum and policies. This handbook was reviewed on the day of inspection. This hand book was emailed to parents when they were enquiring about the service. The service provided parents with information to inform them on the curriculum, the hours of operation, the funding schemes available, contact details and the facilities available within the service. It provided parents with information on the day-to-day requirements and running of the service: healthy eating, medication management, behaviour management, complaints, fire safety and first aid.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

There were two preschool rooms in the service, the ECCE preschool room and the toddler room. Both rooms were well equipped with a variety of furniture, toys and materials. There were child sized tables and chairs suitable for tabletop activities and snack time. There was adequate space for children and staff to move around and enjoy free play in both rooms.

Areas of interest were well developed. For example, in the toddler room there was a dolls house with miniature furniture, a home corner with dolls and buggies and a cosy rest area which had a supply of books for children to read close by.

In the ECCE room there was a home corner which was supplied with pots pans and kitchen equipment for children to play with. There was a home office which had a computer screen, key board and phone. There were large activity trays with trucks and bricks. Staff had taken the initiative to display an x-ray to show children the composition of their bodies.

Open shelving units ran along walls in both rooms which were used to display the play materials for the children's work and play. They were easily accessible to the children to see what they wanted to choose. There was a sufficient variety including manipulative play materials, fine motor skills and life skill materials. The small room to the side of the toddler room had soft furnishing for children to rest in this quiet room if they wanted to relax.

The outdoor area to the rear of the service was safe, suitable and secure. The ground covering consisted of artificial grass. There was a supply of ride on toys, balance bikes, scooters and tractors. There was a shed that was used as a shop for children to play in. There was a large outdoor kitchen which was well supplied with utensils, pots and pans. There was a buddy bench and a large wooden ship for children to play on. The area to the side had newly constructed wooden panelling along the wall of the service. The grass was well maintained and there were tyres imaginatively placed for children to sit on.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service promoted healthy eating and had a healthy eating policy. All snacks and meals were provided by the service. The service had employed a catering company to provide all the hot meals in the service. The dinner was served at mid-day. The children were observed having their dinner in the dining room on the first floor of the service. There was a plentiful supply and children who wanted more were given extra portions. The staff sat with the children and chatted to them during their meal.

### 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)  
There was a person trained in a first Aid responder course available to the children on the day of inspection and across the Rota when the service was in operation.

(2)(a)(b)  
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

## 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 firefighting 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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill had taken place in the service in February 2025.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were last serviced in February 2025.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance of the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The service was insured to provide full day care for 19 children.