

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015DL025

Name of Service Clonmany Community Preschool

Address of Service: Clonmany Youth & Community Resource Centre, Clonmany, Donegal, F93 XV88

Email Address: chairperson@clonmanycommunitycentre.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Michael McKinney

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Change in the number of children the service can accommodate from 20 to 22

The service proposes to move to a different room in the community centre.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase to 22 children in a new room in the community centre.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 20 to 22 children

Date of Inspection:	0	4	1	1	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: K Folan

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	22nd December 2025
Authority to Inspect	
The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).	

Description of Service	Clonmany Community Preschool is a not-for-profit service providing sessional care to children aged 2 to 6 years, in Clonmany village in Co. Donegal. The service operated between the hours of 09:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. each weekday. The service is registered to provide school age care.
Premises	The premises consists of a detached two-story community centre. The service currently operates from one ground floor room within the community centre and wishes to move to a newly renovated room, which has been repurposed for an early years' service. An outdoor area, consisting of a garden, sheltered area and an astroturf pitch is available directly outside of the proposed preschool room.
Staffing	The registered provider does not work directly with the children and is not based on site. There are three adults working directly with the children including one adult on an employment activation programme. The person in charge is based on site but does not work directly with the children.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, 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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There was a person in charge and a named person available to deputise as required.

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.

(b) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(b) The person in charge is aware of the regulatory requirements to ensure that there is an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Requirement met:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The service has adequate and suitable facilities for play for the proposed number of preschool children aged 2 to 6 years. Opportunities for play are provided through home corner areas containing a kitchen all utensils, a vet hospital cart, dress up items, a selection of dolls, figurines and a tool bench. The service has items to develop a preschool child’s fine motor skills such as safety scissors, prewriting materials, plastic construction bricks of various sizes, sorting trays and puzzles. Sensory play is provided through sensory bottles and objects, mouldable sand and art materials. A book area with is available in matted area with a child sized armchair.</p> <p>(1)(b) Suitable rest facilities are available in should a child require a rest during the session. A child sized armchair, comfortable matting and a low-level bed is available in the service.</p> <p>(2)(b) The service has access to a variety of outdoor spaces. A covered sheltered area is available to the children in all weather and provides for gross motor activity and sand and water play. A second garden area containing a large wooden playhouse, climbing equipment and swing sets, a willow tunnel and a mud kitchen is available outdoors. This area is secured by high walls which are brightly painted with floral murals and green metal fencing. An astro turf pitch secured with green metal fencing is available directly off the garden area as a third outdoor option.</p>
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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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

The service has a healthy eating policy and provides all snacks to the children, to ensure that the preschool children receive suitable, nutritious and varied food.

Snacks are made on site for children attending the service such as yogurt and fruit, vegetable soup and toasted sandwiches.

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.

Requirement met:

- The main door was secure on the inspector's arrival to the service.
- Internal doors to other areas in the community centre are secured by remote keyless entry.
- The outdoor area is secure with high level fencing and gates.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to preschool children.
- Cleaning schedules are in place to ensure rooms are maintained.
- All waste is inaccessible to the preschool children.
- Adequate handwashing facilities with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels are available for safe hand hygiene practices.

Requirement not met:

1. The sluice room is located off the new preschool room and was unsecured on the day of inspection, posing a risk to children.
2. Radiator caps were missing from two radiators in the preschool room, exposing sharp metal, posing a risk of injury.
3. The emergency pull cord in the sanitary accommodation was long and within reach of a preschool child, posing a risk of strangulation.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Plastic trunking on the wall of the preschool room was damaged, exposing sharp edges. 5. Mops and buckets were located in the children’s sanitary accommodation posing a risk of cross infection to the preschool child.
Response from Provider:	<p>The registered provider responded with photographic evidence of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sluice room door has been fitted with a bolt. 2. Radiator caps were fitted on both radiators. 3. The emergency pull cord in the sanitary accommodation has been secured out of the reach of the children. 4. Plastic trunking has been fixed. 5. Mops and buckets were removed from the sanitary accommodation.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has been met.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met:

(1)

The registered provider supplied certification of eight adults with first aid for children available to the preschool children.

(2) (a)(b)

A fully stocked first aid box was available in a conspicuous location in the 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 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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met:

- (1) (a)
 The service provided evidence of a log of fire drills which were completed monthly.
- (1) (b)
 A record of all firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was provided on the day. The fire extinguishers were serviced on 19 May 2025. The smoke alarms were serviced on 21 August 2025.
- (4)
 Emergency evacuation plans were displayed throughout the service. A fire assembly point has been identified at the front of the building.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met:

The service provided evidence of adequate insurance for a sessional service for 22 children up until 30 September 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.*

Requirement met:

- (a) On a visual inspection the service appeared to be of sound and stable structure. On discussion with the person in charge, she confirmed she was not aware of any deficits or maintenance issues with the structure of the building.
- (b) The main building was secure on the inspector’s arrival. A restricted entry system is in place. Internal doors to other areas in the building were secured with remote keyless entry.
- (c) The preschool room has natural lighting by way of glass panelled doors and windows, supplemented by fluorescent lighting. The heating system is thermostatically controlled oil central heating which was serviced in October 2024. Openable windows provide for adequate ventilation.
- (d) The service appears visibly clean and maintained. The service has cleaning schedules in place which are updated weekly by staff.
- (e) The proposed room has adequate sanitary accommodation for the proposed number of children. Two toilets and two wash hand basins adequately address the sanitary requirement. A nappy changing facility is available onsite.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider demonstrated that adequate clear floor space is available for the proposed number of children.

(3)

The service demonstrated clear floor space as below:

Name of Room	Proposed Number of Children	Age of Preschool children	Clear floor space Available	Number of children allowed
New preschool room	22 sessional	2-6 years	40.073m ²	Maximum of 22 sessional children aged 2-3 years