

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DL025
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Clonmany Community Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Clonmany Youth & Community Resource Centre, Clonmany, Clonmany, Co. Donegal
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<b>Eircode:</b>	F93 XV88
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Michael McKinney
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	29/05/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	-
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F92 TD92
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L Mc Glynn
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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

Clonmany Community Preschool is a not for profit service providing sessional care to children aged 2-6 years. Located in the rural village of Clonmany on the Inishowen peninsula, the service operates between the hours of 9.30am and 12.30pm each weekday. The service is also registered to provide school age care. The premises consists of a detached two-story community centre complex. The service operates from one ground floor room within the centre. The service has a dedicated outdoor play area which is located adjacent to the community centre's football grounds. The children also have the use of the indoor sports hall in the building.

### Staffing

The registered provider is not on the premises on a daily basis and does not work directly with the children. There were three staff members working directly with the children on the day of inspection. One of the staff members was employed in the service as part of an employment activation programme. The service employs one additional staff member to work with the children who was off on leave at the time of inspection. An additional staff member in the community centre provides governance support to the service.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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

*(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

The vetting files for seven adults were reviewed and the following was deemed to meet the requirements of the regulation.

(9) (2) (a) (b) There were two references on file for four adults from a past employer or a source other than a past employer as appropriate.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for seven adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(4) Certification evidence of a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) minimum Level 5 qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent was on file for four adults that required it.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a) (b) There were no references on file for two adults and a second reference was required for one adult.

(d) There was no record of experience on file for two adults therefore the requirement for international police vetting could not be determined.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

(2) (a) (b) We have sent the one reference outstanding for one adult, we are also attaching the two references and CV's for the external facilitators required. We have reviewed the requirements again and we now understand much better what is required for external facilitators therefore this should not happen again. In future we understand that a CV and references are required for external facilitators that are regularly used.

(d) We have sent the CV's and any international police checks required for the facilitators.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

One validated reference was submitted.

### Summary Comment

This regulation remains non-compliant in relation to two adults as the registered provider's response did not contain adequate evidence to demonstrate compliance.

### 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) The minimum number of adults were working with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (3) On the morning of inspection there were two adults caring for 15 children aged 2 to 5 years.  
An additional adult was present in the service as part of an employment activation programme.

### 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.

#### Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The indoor play facilities consisted of one indoor playroom, the occasional use of an indoor sports hall and a sensory room. On the day of inspection, a number of the play resources had been removed from the indoor playroom to allow for a music and movement session with an outside facilitator. The inspector was shown the range of play equipment available on the premises that is accessible to children normally. This included equipment to support all forms of play and areas of development including imaginary, sensory, creative, fine motor and cognitive development. Children did have access on the day to a range of books, small world toys, dress up items, cars and trucks. Staff also informed the inspector of an

application was in process to move the care room to a newly removed room on the premises which contained a range of age appropriate equipment laid out in a variety of interest areas.

There was an outdoor play area on the premises which provided a range of different play opportunities for children with ample space for developing their gross motor skills through running, jumping, climbing, cycling and ball play. Ground cover consisted of grass with a cement pathway. The area contained multiple areas of interest and a variety of play opportunities including a climb and slide frame, a wooden playhouse and planting areas.

- (b) Children had access to a well-equipped sensory room with soft comfortable furnishings which could be used as a space for children to take time out of the busier play area. Stackable floor beds were also in storage should a child require sleep during the session.

### 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 doors leading into the care room were secured with an electronic magnetic lock system to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- Internal doors were secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas and hazardous objects and materials were secured out of children's reach. Cleaning products used in the service were securely stored so as to be inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Risk assessments on the outdoor play area was completed daily and noted to be maintained up to date.
- Toys and play equipment appeared in good repair.

##### Infection Control:

- Cleaning schedules outlining appropriate cleaning methods and the various areas to be cleaned within the playrooms and sanitary accommodation were available. Staff members were observed cleaning play areas and frequently touched surfaces after children's use and prior to snack time.

- The sanitary area was maintained in a clean, hygienic condition. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available in the care room and in the children’s sanitary accommodation to support hand washing practices. Children were observed washing their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, and before snack.
- Perishable items in children’s lunchboxes were refrigerated until consumed.

### Administration of Medication:

- There was a policy in the service on the safe administration of medication if required. Anti-febrile medication was available and stored in the office area. A template record for the administration of medication was available however it was confirmed by staff that no child had received medication in the service to date.

### Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were free from obstruction and staff were conversant on the evacuation procedure in the event of a fire.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for three staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice ‘EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting’.
2. The mechanism securing a blind cord in the care room had come loose thus posing a risk to children. It is acknowledged that, when the person in charge was alerted to the issue by the inspector, the mechanism was immediately repaired.
3. A computer monitor in the care room was not securely mounted posing a risk of injury to children.
4. There was a cable trailing from a high-level shelf in the care room posing a safety risk to children.

#### Infection Control:

5. The floor covering in part of the care room where children sat to read books was visibly dirty and in need of cleaning.
6. The paper hand towels used by the children when washing their hands in the room were not hygienically dispensed as a stack of interfold paper towels were provided. This resulted in repeated handling of the paper towels which posed a risk of cross-contamination and was inadequate for infection control purposes.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The Vetting Officer has now reprocessed the vetting for the outdated clearances, and she has also set an alert to remind her should a vetting be nearing its expiry date. We currently have one through however the final vetting will be sent on as soon as it is received. There is a calendar alarm in place and this calendar alarm should be sufficient to alert the vetting officer of any up-and-coming renewals due.
2. The caretaker fixed this issue as soon as it was brought to the attention of the person in charge. A blind cord check is now added to the daily room check list to ensure that there are no risks posed to the children regarding blind cords.
3. The computer monitor has been removed from the room. The monitor has been removed from the room and the person in charge is aware that should it be returned to the room it must be secured to the wall.
4. This cable has been removed from the room. In future all staff are aware that all cables must be fixed to the wall

#### Infection Control:

5. We have attached photos to demonstrate that the floor has now had a deep clean. This has now been added to the monthly deep cleaning plan and will be done on a monthly basis going forward
6. We have attached a paper hand towel dispenser to the wall to allow for the safe and hygienic dispensing of hand towels for the children.

### Supporting documentation submitted

A number of images were submitted.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider address 5 of the 6 non-compliances identified. The findings documented at point 1 will remain non-compliant until appropriate vetting has been received.

## 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 were three staff members employed in the service with up-to-date training in first aid for children.

(2)(a) There was a stocked first aid box clearly visible to staff in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was readily available to staff if required.

## 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 written record was maintained of the fire drills that had taken place in the service to date. These were noted to occur monthly.

(b) A maintenance record for the smoke alarm and firefighting equipment was available, both of which were last serviced in May 2025.

(4) The procedure for evacuation in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the care room.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available detailing insurance for the provision of a childcare service for up to 22 children with an expiry date of 30 September 2025.