

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DL113
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Name of Service:	Playdays Community Childcare CLG
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Address of Service:	Malin Head Community Centre, Malin Head, Co. Donegal
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Eircode:	F93 A215
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Name of Registered Provider:	Colette O'Doherty
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F92 TD92
Inspection undertaken by:	L Mc Glynn
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
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Description of service

Playdays Community Childcare CLG is currently registered to provide part time and sessional care to children aged 2-6 years. At present, the service is operating a sessional only service from 9.15am to 12.15pm each weekday. The service is located within a community centre building in a rural area in north Donegal. There is one preschool room with adjacent sanitary facilities for both staff and children. A small enclosed outdoor play area is directly accessible from the preschool room.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. There were three staff members employed to work directly with the children, there was one additional staff member employed in a relief capacity and one staff member working the service as part of an employment activation programme.

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/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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on 06 March 2025 in relation to an identified risk whereby there were no staff members working in the service with up to date First Aid Responder training.

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

(2) The person in charge confirmed that there were three adults working in the service at the time of inspection. One additional staff member was present in the service as part of an employment activation programme. There was also one staff member employed on a relief capacity. The vetting information for all five staff members were reviewed and the following was deemed to meet the requirements of the regulation.

(a) (b) There were two validated past employer references on file for two staff members and one validated past employer reference for two additional staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the five staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) Documentary evidence was presented to demonstrate that two staff members had obtained a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework and one staff member had obtained a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a) (b)

1. The source of the second references on file for two staff members could not be determined as they were not on headed paper, and they did not give sufficient information on their relationship with the staff member.

2. Two of the references on file for two staff members were not validated.

(d) International police vetting from the relevant state was not available for one staff member whose employment record indicated they required it. A document was provided as evidence of international police vetting for a second staff member however, this was not translated and therefore could not be accepted.

(4) It could not be determined from the information provided that one staff member had obtained 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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a) (b) 1. No response

2. The references were validated, do this straight away.

(d) Didn't actually realise the translation was needed but was sent on then, all new information. Do this straight away.

(4) Application was re made, do this straight away.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of updated references, letters of eligibility to practice and translated police vetting were submitted.

Summary Comment

The information submitted by the registered provider has been reviewed along with the evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 have been adequately addressed.

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) An adequate number of adults worked directly with the children attending the service on the day of inspection.
- (2) On the inspector's arrival to the service, two adults cared for eight children aged 2-4 years. All children attended the service on a sessional basis. There was one additional adult in the service as part of an employment activation programme.

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 main entrance to the service was secured on the inspector's arrival to the service and remained secured throughout the inspection. Access to the service was controlled by staff members.
- The boundary of the outdoor play area was secured with high level fencing.

- There were no trailing cables or electrical hazards observed.
- Cleaning supplies and equipment were stored in areas that were not accessible to children.
- There was impact absorbent surfacing under high rise equipment in the outdoor play area and all play items were well maintained with no observable hazards.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available to support effective handwashing.
- The playroom, sanitary facilities and outdoor area were clean and maintained in a hygienic condition with cleaning records available.
- Foot pedal bins were available throughout the service for the safe disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- The service had a policy on the safe administration of medication which required parental consent. It was confirmed that no medication had been administered in the service this year to date and a template record was available to staff for use if required.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were free from obstruction.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Children were signed in to the service on arrival and a review of previous attendance records demonstrated accurate arrival and departure times for each child.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) (a) (b) There was no record in writing made by staff of the attendance of the Early Years Inspector in the service on the day of inspection. When requested by the Inspector, staff did not know where the visitor record was maintained.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(3) (a) (b) The book is to be left on the premises at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The assurance given by the registered provider has been accepted. The practice will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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

(2) (a) (b) An adequately stocked first aid box was stored in an area readily accessible to staff if required.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection, the service could not provide certified evidence that any staff member working in the service had completed up to date First Aid Responder training.

An Immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider following the inspection in relation to this issue. Information received on 9 May 2025 confirmed that three staff members were enrolled to complete First Aid Responder training on the 17 and 18 May 2025 and the service would submit evidence to the inspectorate once completed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) FAR training has been done. In future the service will apply for training well before the date.

Supporting documentation submitted

Training certificates were submitted.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider has been accepted. Regulation 25 has been deemed complaint.

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) There was a mechanism in place for recording fire drills and records were noted to demonstrate a monthly fire drill occurring.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment was available having been serviced/tested on 26 February 2025.

(4) The procedure to follow on the event of an emergency evacuation was on display in the care room.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (b) The service did not provide evidence to demonstrate that the smoke alarm system was subject to regular maintenance and testing.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (b) Smoke alarm check sheet to be signed by caretaker. Have this in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

No documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The findings documented at Regulation 26 (1) (b) remain non-compliant as the registered provider's response did not provide adequate assurance that the non-compliance has been rectified.

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 adequate insurance for up to 22 children attending a part time service with an expiry date in March 2026.