

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DL114		
Name of Service:	Quigleys Point Community Playgroup		
Address of Service:	Cabry, Quigleys Point, Lifford, Co. Donegal		
Eircode:	F93 R57X		
Name of Registered Provider:	Seamus McGranaghan		
Service type:	Part Time		
Date of Inspection:	22/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F92 TD92		
Inspection undertaken by:	K Folan		
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

Quigleys Point Community Playgroup is a community-based service located in the village of Quigley's Point, Co Donegal. The service is registered to provide sessional and part-time care between the hours of 09:15 and 13:45. The service is open Monday to Friday, and the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme is accommodated over a 38-week period annually. The service is operated from a community centre building in the village which has been adapted for use as an early years' service. The pre-school premises consist of two adjoining playrooms with sanitary accommodation designated for the children's use. There is also an office, kitchen area and sanitary accommodation for use by staff. The service has a large outdoor play area located to the rear of the pre-school.

Staffing

There were six adults employed to work in the setting. This included the person in charge and three childcare staff members who work directly with the children and two adults completing employment activation programmes. The registered provider does not work directly with children in the service but was available to facilitate aspects of the inspection and attend the inspection feedback meeting held in the service on the day of the inspection.

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 *announced/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 an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23,25,26 and 28.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 registered provider, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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,.

(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)

The registered provider ensured that:

- a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2)

On the day of inspection, five adults were present, the person in charge, two adults who were employed to work directly with the children, two adult in a supernumerary roles on employment activation schemes.

Staff files in respect of 6 adults were reviewed and the following information was available:

- (a) 8 written references from past employers for six of the adults.
- (b) 4 written reference from a reputable source for four of the adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4)

Four of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police Vetting for one adult who had lived outside of a state for longer than six months over the age of 18 was not available.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Police vetting obtained. In future all required vetting reports will be required before a position is filled.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

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)
On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.

(2)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection.

- In the Rainbow Room two adults cared for 20 children aged between 3 to 5 years of age.
- In the Sunshine room, one adult cared for seven children aged between 2 years and 9 months to 3 years and 9 months.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1) The required records (a) to (k) were kept by the service and available on the day of inspection.

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, and

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

Basic Need

- The service had a healthy eating policy in place. Children's lunches and snacks were brought in from home. On the morning of the inspection, children were observed enjoying breadsticks, wraps, crackers and a selection of fruits blueberries, grapes and watermelon. Lunch time was relaxed with staff members sitting with the children and engaging in social conversation.
- Children's individual drink bottles were available to them throughout the session.
- Children were supported to use the toilet and handwashing facilities independently with staff providing support when required.
- Each of the playrooms contained child sized sofas should a child require a rest throughout the morning.
- Individual inclusion plans were implemented in line with the child's own needs. The plans detailed the developmental stage of the child and the interventions needed by the staff to always ensure the child's learning in the service.
- A key worker system was in place in the service with named staff assigned the responsibility for creating close relationships with children as evidenced through documentation.
- The staff demonstrated warmth in their interactions with the children, praising positive behaviours such as sharing and turn taking.
- Staff and parents work in partnership in the service. The service used a software technology application to share information with parents and the platform allowed parents to communicate back to the service.
- The staff members were observed to work well as a team, frequently collaborating with each other in relation to activities and children's needs.

- Pictures of the children’s families were displayed on the walls, creating a link between the child’s home and preschool.

Physical and material environment

- The rainbow room was bright and welcoming with a variety of well-defined interest areas to develop all areas of children’s development. For example, for imagination development, a well-resourced home corner was available. It consisted of a play kitchen and was stocked with wooden and plastic household items such as a tea set and play food items. There was a selection of dolls, buggies, miniature cots and highchairs. Children were observed engaging with this area and including staff in their games.
- A “construction area” was available to the children containing materials such as magnetic shapes, large foam bricks and a selection of vehicles.
- Sensory trays provided water play with objects for pouring and splashing and “washing” objects.
- Visual sorting exercises were available to the children such as a variety of small, coloured objects which were sorted into plastic bowls by using large and small tweezers.
- Activities to develop fine motor skills were available to the children, this included prewriting materials such as markers, crayons and pencils and laminated tracing sheets.
- The sunshine room contained small world play items such as dollhouses and dress up costumes. Equipment and materials were easily accessible to the children on low level shelving.
- Children’s artwork was displayed on the walls.
- A range of books were available in each room which supported children’s language and development. Long, medium and short-term activity plans and themes were displayed on the walls, relative to each room.
- Children in each room had access to the outdoor area on the morning of the inspection.
- A large, fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises featured a variety of ground-cover types including gravel, tarmacadam, concrete paving and synthetic soft surfaces. There was also a natural grass section containing a swing set.
- The resources provided in the outdoors promoted multiple areas of development including, gross motor, fine motor, cognitive skills and language development and encouraged a wide variety of play and learning opportunities. The area featured picnic benches, areas for planting, climbing frames, an open “vehicle” with multiple seating, large wooden and plastic playhouses and a selection of ride on 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 main entrance was found to be secured on arrival preventing unauthorised access or exit from the premises.
- Materials and equipment were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C in each of the sanitary areas.
- Cleaning products and equipment were stored out of the reach of children.
- The outdoor area was secured with tall fencing and a bolted gate.
- Blind cords were secured with restrictors.
- Internal doors in the service were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes in both of the care rooms.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available within the service for safe disposal of waste.
- There was adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels. Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks, after messy play and outdoor play.
- Cleaning schedules were up to date and available to review.
- The sanitary facilities were observed to be ventilated by non mechanical ventilation.
- The sanitary facilities were observed to be maintained and clean.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was administered on the day of the inspection however on discussion with staff, they demonstrated awareness of the correct procedure to be carried out to ensure the safe administration of medicine.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the outdoor area, a piece of the plastic playhouse was broken, exposing sharp edges, posing a risk of injury to children.
2. In the rainbow room, a sharp edge was exposed on the radiator posing a risk to children.
3. In the rainbow room sanitary accommodation, a sharp edge was exposed on the radiator posing a risk of injury to children.

Infection Control:

4. In the sanitary accommodation in the rainbow room and sunshine room, paper towels were provided for handwashing however they were stored loosely on a shelf posing a risk of airborne cross contamination, reducing the effectiveness of hand washing.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Piece of broken plastic has been removed from playhouse
2. Radiator cap replaced on radiator in Rainbow Room
3. Radiator cap replaced on radiator in Rainbow sanitary accommodation

Infection Control:

4. Hand towel dispenser unit has been sourced and will be installed when it arrives, temporary measure in place covered hand towels.

Weekly checks will be carried out on all of the above.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence submitted.
2. Photographic evidence submitted.
3. Photographic evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

4. Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

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) Three staff in the service were trained in first aid for children. At least one trained member of staff was always available to the children.

(2)(a)(b) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available in the service, stored in the rainbow room. The first aid box was stored in an easily accessible position.

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 record of fire drills was kept by the service with the most recent drill carried out on 17 September 2025.

(1)(b) Records were available to evidence that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 11 July 2025 and smoke alarms were serviced in July 2025.

(4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in each area 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 registered provider ensured adequate insurance was in place for the preschool service for 30 children up until 11 June 2026.