

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DL123
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Name of Service:	Rosie and Jim's Playschool
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Address of Service:	Main Street, Castlefinn, Co. Donegal
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Eircode:	F93 Y732
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Name of Registered Provider:	Roisin McGlynn
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	05/03/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	8
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 2nd Floor, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94
Inspection undertaken by:	N McEndoo.
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

Rosie and Jim's Playschool is an early years' service situated in the town of Castlefinn, Donegal. The service is privately owned and has been in operation since 2010. The service offers two preschool sessions per day, 9am to 12pm and 12.30pm to 3.30pm each weekday for the pre-school year, catering for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates from a detached former barn building that has been adapted to provide the childcare facility. There is one spacious indoor playroom with adjoining kitchen/office and sanitary accommodation. An outdoor play area is provided to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were four adults employed in the service at the time of inspection with each working directly with children. This included the registered provider. There was one student on placement in the service at the time of 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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance and 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, 27, 28 and 29.

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, 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, and

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required.
- (b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service inspection was being carried out, the designated person in charge was present.
- (c) On interview with the adults present, it was evident there was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service, and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2) On the day of inspection three adult files were inspected.

- (a) Two validated references were available from a previous employer of one adult.
- (b) Two validated references were available from a reputable source of one adult.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for five adults.

(3)

The procedures specified in paragraph (2) had been completed prior to adults being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4)

Two 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, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

- (a) Two references on file for one adult were not from the most recent employer, as evidenced by the employment history.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A more recent reference in respect of the employee has been obtained. The registered provider will make sure that references are from the most recent employer if possible.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of validated references submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been reviewed. 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.

(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 registered provider ensured that, at all times, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(3)
The registered provider ensured that on the day of inspection, the adult to child ratio was maintained at the minimum specified ratios.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

During the inspection, the required ratio of qualified adults to children was maintained, ensuring that every child was under the supervision of a qualified staff member. The staff were observed positioning themselves within the rooms to allow them to engage effectively with the children, offering supportive and attentive supervision. During mealtimes staff sat closely, chatting and interacting with the children at the tables. Staff ensured help was given when and where required, around toileting and handwashing. The outdoor area was designed to ensure that the children could be kept within sight and sound of the staff. Staff were observed to interact and join in with children’s play whilst outdoors, ensuring constant and careful supervision occurred.

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 full day care service for 22 children up until 27 March 2025.

art 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.*

Compliance Information

- (a) of sound and stable structure,

The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure. There were no visible defects present.

- (b) safe and secure,

On arrival to the service the door was found to be secure. There was a doorbell present to alert staff to visitors, ensuring that no unauthorised access or unsupervised exit could occur. The perimeter of the outdoor area consisted of a brick wall and wooden fencing.

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

On the day of inspection, the service was adequately heated. Windows were large and openable, providing natural light and ventilation. Mechanical ventilation vents were kept clear of dust and appeared to be working well in the sanitary areas.

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired,

The service appeared to be kept clean and well maintained throughout. On visual inspection recent storm damage had been removed, and damaged repaired were possible.

Non-Compliance Information

- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

It is acknowledged there were sufficient toilets and wash hand basins available to the children, however on the day of inspection a nappy changing unit was not available for children who were not toilet trained.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider has stated the following.

Corrective and Preventive Action

I have looked at various suitable changing units that are suitable for the space I have in the disabled toilet and that can support older children of a heavier weight. The units are too big for the space that I would like to purchase, therefore I have contacted someone to tailor make a changing station. Please see email regarding this before I proceed to ensure that this unit is maintained and suitable for use.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of quotation for works submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been reviewed. Evidence of completed works to be submitted to the inspector on completion, therefore the non-compliance identified under Regulation 29 will remain outstanding.