

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DL124
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Name of Service:	Saimer Community Childcare Group Ltd
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Address of Service:	The Rock, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal
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Eircode:	F94 NH36
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Name of Registered Provider:	Emily Farrell Larkin
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/08/2025
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Date 2 of Inspection:	20/08/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	37
Day 2	AM	49	PM	32

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Killeen
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Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Saimer Community Childcare service is in the town of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. The preschool caters for children aged between 0 months and 6 years, from Monday to Friday between 8 am and 6 pm. This community operated preschool service offers the option of full daycare, part-time care service, an (ECCE) Early Childhood Care and Education and sessional care programme. A breakfast club from 8.00 am to 9.00 am and afterschool programme for school-aged children from 2.00pm to 6.00 pm is also offered. The service operates from a purpose-built facility with 5 childcare playrooms.

Staffing

The service employs a total of 31 adults. On Inspection Day One, a total of 20 adults were present in the service. Of these, 12 adults were engaged in the direct care of early years children, while 4 adults were assigned to work with school-age children in the after-school service. Two adults were responsible for management, office, and administrative duties, and a further two adults were employed in the kitchen. On Inspection Day Two, a total of 19 adults were present in the service. Of these, 13 adults were engaged in the direct care and education of pre-school children, while 2 adults worked specifically with school-age children in the after-school service. Two adults were assigned to management, office, and administrative duties, and a further two adults were employed in the kitchen. The registered provider is not present daily; however, a named person in charge and a designated deputy were in place to oversee the operation of 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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,22,23,27 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.

Additional Information

1. An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the Registered Provider on 12th August 2025 for non-compliance with Regulation 23: Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child. This action was taken due to the ambient temperatures in the sleep rooms exceeding acceptable levels, posing a potential risk to the health and safety of sleeping children

- The registered provider submitted a response on 13th August 2025 which was deemed to satisfactorily address this non-compliance.

2. An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the Registered Provider on 12th August 2025 for non-compliance with Regulation 23: Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child. This action was taken due to the water temperature in the toddler room sanitary area exceeding 43°C, which poses a risk of scalding to children.

- The registered provider submitted a response on 13th August 2025 which was deemed to satisfactorily address this non-compliance.

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

(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
- (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) The service manager was the designated person in charge, and a named adult was assigned to deputise in their absence.

(b) The designated person in charge was present on the premises throughout the inspection period.

(c) A clear management structure was in place within the service. This structure outlined the lines of authority and accountability, as well as the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee. Room Leaders were assigned to each room. The management structure was visibly displayed on the door of the pre-school room, supporting transparency and promoting staff awareness.

(2)

At the time of inspection, the person in charge confirmed that 31 adults were employed in the service. A review of staff records demonstrated the following:

(a) 40 written validated references from past employers were available.

(b) 12 written validated references from reputable sources were available.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 31 adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years. (Refer to Regulation 23 for further details.)

(d) Police vetting from the relevant police authorities in another state was available for two adults who had resided outside the State for a period of six consecutive months or more.

(4)

Of the staff files reviewed, 19 adults were found to hold a major award at Level 5 or above in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a) (b)

- On the day of inspection, four staff members had no written validated references on file.
- Two adult files had only one written validated reference available.

(2) (d)

At the time of inspection, it was identified that six adults employed in the service had resided outside of the State for a period of six consecutive months or more. While two adults had appropriate police vetting from the relevant authorities in the other state, four adults did not have international police vetting on file, as required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The response from the register provider stated, i have updated all staff files to ensure every employee has two validated references and completed international police vetting where required, bringing the service into full

compliance. I have implemented a revised recruitment checklist to ensure these safeguarding requirements are met before any new hire starts, while also mandating that all managers follow this standardized process. Moving forward, we will conduct quarterly audits to maintain these records and have instructed staff on their responsibility to keep HR updated on any changes to their qualifications or personal information.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. All outstanding references with validation were received.
2. International police vetting received for all staff.
3. Recruitment checklist

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 (2) (a) (b) (d) has 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

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 always maintained throughout the inspection.

(8) The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises when children were present in the service as evidenced in a sample review of attendance records.

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

Compliance Information

Physical and Material Environment:

- The indoor environment was safe, welcoming, and developmentally appropriate. Materials were well-organised and easily accessible, allowing children to make independent choices and engage in self-directed play. There were five playrooms in use on the day of the inspection, the playgroup 1, wobbler room, baby room and toddler room, the fifth room was for the after-school children and was referred to as the afterschool room.
- In the baby room, staff demonstrated sensitivity and emotional atonement, using gentle tones and physical proximity to comfort and reassure infants. They sat on the floor with the children, offering support as they explored their surroundings and responding promptly to any signs of distress. The baby room was equipped with a large, comfortable armchair for staff to sit and cradle younger babies, soft child-sized seating, a ball pit, and a variety of age-appropriate toys to support sensory and motor development.
- The playgroup 1 and toddler rooms were well-equipped to meet the developmental needs of the children. It included child-sized tables and chairs, a calm corner with soft teddies and a wooden playhouse, and a home kitchen area featuring a child-sized cooker, sink, and oven. There was a dedicated art area, a library corner, and a "My Family Tree" photo display to promote a sense of belonging. Open shelves housed a wide variety of toys including Jenga blocks, zoo animals, ponies, cars, tractors, wooden furniture, and a large selection of puzzles, all accessible at child height to encourage independent play.
- On the day of inspection, children were seen choosing their own play materials and engaging in collaborative play. Staff encouraged kindness and cooperation, as demonstrated when a child was invited to help a peer complete a jigsaw puzzle. Children were consistently supported to express themselves, take initiative, and engage meaningfully with their environment. Turn-taking and sharing were naturally embedded in the play, with staff reinforcing these behaviours through gentle guidance and praise.

- All the play educational resources were accessible to the children at their height. Appropriate size tables and chairs were located near interest areas to provide children with a choice of tabletop activities or floor play.
- Rest areas were thoughtfully arranged to support children's comfort and need for downtime. These spaces included large floor cushions, child-sized armchairs, and soft matting, creating a calming environment where children could relax during the day.
- The outdoor air provides a good variety of activities to support children's gross motor development as well as space to engage in energetic play and imaginative play. The service had two outdoor play areas. The area to the front of the building featured two slides, six ride-on bikes, and a baby stroller. The larger outdoor space to the side of the service included twelve ride-on bikes, a soft absorbent floor surface, a large climbing frame with steps and a slide, a large elevated wooden treehouse, a plastic treehouse, and numerous small cars and trucks. These areas supported gross motor development, imaginative play, and exploration.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The same staff members were present each day in the service which ensured that the children were familiar with the adults caring for them. Staff interactions with children were consistently warm, responsive, and respectful. Children were given opportunities to form secure relationships with familiar adults. This approach helped build trust and continuity of care, and staff were observed communicating regularly with parents, offering live updates and support through their technology application.
- On the day of inspection, children were seen choosing their own play materials and engaging in collaborative play. Staff encouraged kindness and cooperation. Children were consistently supported to express themselves, take initiative, and engage meaningfully with their environment.
- Good teamwork was observed and staff worked well together and were observed communicating with each other and shared the workload between them.
- Children were offered a sense of belonging through the provision of individually named places for their personal belongings and by displays of artwork and photos of each child with their families.
- Children were enabled to engage positively with each other and were encouraged to be helpful, to take turns and share play resources with other children.
- Children's language, development and communication skills were supported through the positive interactions an ongoing conversation observed during the session and throughout storytelling, music and nursery rhymes that formed part of their play routine.

- Children were regularly praised and encouraged throughout the morning which helped them to be confident and willing to communicate their ideas and to ask questions.
- The service demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting healthy eating. Nutritious snacks and meals were provided at regular intervals throughout the day, supporting children’s physical development and well-being. Children were encouraged to feed themselves, with staff offering age-appropriate support to foster independence. Drinks such as water and milk were placed within easy reach of the children, allowing them to access fluids freely throughout the session.
- Children access the toilet during the session in accordance with their individual needs.
- Child friendly hand-washing posters were placed in the toilets to promote correct hand washing. Good general hygiene practises were observed, and staff supervise children when they washed their hands to ensure that this was effectively carried out.
- Tissues were provided for runny noses etc. And parents applied spare clothes. Protective plastic aprons were available for messy play thereby promoting personal care.
- Free movement of the children was facilitated in the daily routine of the service short periods of adult initiated activities was interspersed with free play where children could choose their own activity and move between the different interest areas in the room.
- children were supported and encouraged to be independent suitable to their age and stage of development, including self-feeding, toileting, dressing for home and tidying away after work or play activities.
- Staff transitions between activities were calm and well-managed, with children given advance notice and supported through familiar routines. Visual cues and songs were used to signal changes, helping children feel secure and prepared

Non-Compliance Information

1. During the inspection, it was observed that children in the wobbler room did not have access to suitable seating during snack time. The children were observed standing while eating, and staff confirmed that this was the usual practice within the room. When this was brought to the attention of the Person in Charge, it was noted that suitable chairs were provided for the evening meal, indicating that appropriate seating was available but not consistently used.
2. The absence of defined interest areas and the limited availability of toys in the wobbler room may negatively impact children's development. Interest areas and a variety of age-appropriate toys support key aspects of

early learning, including sensory exploration, fine and gross motor skills, language development, and social interaction. Without these opportunities, children may experience reduced engagement, limited stimulation, and fewer chances to develop independence, creativity, and problem-solving skills

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. We immediately restored the required number of age-appropriate chairs to the meal area and implemented a daily pre-meal equipment checklist and staff assignments to ensure safe seating is always prepared. To maintain this, we have introduced monthly equipment audits, provided staff refresher training on mealtime compliance, and assigned Room Leaders to rotate materials and manage interest areas weekly. These new protocols ensure the environment remains organized, fully equipped, and compliant with all quality standards
2. we have immediately set up clearly defined, age-appropriate interest areas in the wobbler room, including sensory, soft play, art, and book zones, using furniture to create safe boundaries. We have provided new, developmentally appropriate resources within these areas to enhance exploration and learning. To maintain this environment, we've implemented a monthly layout review, a regular environment audit checklist, and assigned the room leader responsibility for the weekly rotation of materials and overall maintenance of the areas.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of suitable number of chairs and tables in the wobblers.
2. Photographic evidence of material and layout of wobblers room.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 19 (a) have been adequately addressed.

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.

Compliance Information

- On the day of inspection, food was prepared on-site, and a three-week menu was available for review on the notice board. The menu included a variety of nutritious options appropriate for the age and developmental stage of the children attending the service. Breakfast was observed at 10:07 a.m. and consisted of toast, bananas, apples, and melon. For some of the younger children, the fruit was mashed to support their

developmental needs. Hot meals provided during the day were age-appropriate, nutritious, and offered a varied selection. The meal observed included chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, gravy, and bread stuffing. Milk and water were available in individual cups for the children. Children were permitted to access food or drinks outside of scheduled mealtimes if their individual routines or needs required it. Staff confirmed that alternative food options were available for children who did not wish to eat the food on offer.

- Staff demonstrated a clear awareness of individual dietary needs, and food was observed to be safely stored, prepared, and served in accordance with best practice guidelines. The mealtime environment was calm and supportive, promoting children’s health, well-being, and social-emotional development. Adults were observed sitting with the children during snack and mealtimes, using these opportunities to engage in meaningful conversations and foster positive interactions.

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 secure upon the inspector’s unannounced arrival, preventing unauthorized access and unsupervised exits.
- The perimeter of the service was secured with high-level fencing.
- Materials and resources were visually clean and in good repair.
- Cleaning products were stored out of children's reach.
- All electrical leads, flexes, and blind cords were securely fastened.
- Soap was readily available for children to wash hands before eating and after toileting or nappy changes.
- Child-friendly handwashing posters were displayed near sinks.
- Handwashing was supervised by staff to ensure effectiveness.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Tables and highchairs were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes in all care rooms and dining room.
- There was adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. Older children were observed to wash their hands with support, before snacks.

- The sanitary facilities were observed to be ventilated by openable windows.
- Sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean.
- Foot pedal bins were observed throughout the premises.

Administration of Medication:

- There was no medication administered on the day of inspection. When interviewed, staff were aware of their responsibilities for the safe administration of medication.

Safe Sleep:

- The service had a designated sleep room with appropriate cots available to children.
- Sleep checks were observed to occur every ten minutes.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the care rooms.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The temperature of the water in the sanitary area of the toddler room was measured at 58.4°C at 13:23. This posed a risk of scalding to children. An Immediate Action Notice was issued during the inspection. It is acknowledged that the Person in Charge took immediate action by taking the sink in question out of use and informing staff in the room that the children were not to use this sink, and to instead use the alternative sink in the toilet area. These actions were taken promptly when the inspectors brought the identified risk to their attention, thereby mitigating the risk to children.
2. Garda vetting was available for five 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'.
3. During the inspection, one child was observed seated in a highchair without being appropriately restrained using a five-point harness.
4. The wooden decking leading out to the play area was observed to have sharp, broken pieces of wood and exposed nails. This presents a significant safety hazard, increasing the risk of injury such as cuts, splinters, or trips.
5. The stairs leading to the slide were observed to be uneven, and the wooden border was loose. This presents a potential safety hazard, increasing the risk of trips, slips, or falls

- The fence surrounding the elevated slide area was observed to be secured using rope and zip ties. The top of the wooden structure was exposed, with sharp points, and the overall fence was not securely fixed. This presents a significant safety hazard, increasing the risk of injury from falls or contact with sharp surfaces.

Infection Control:

- The foot-operated bin in the wobbler room was being stored on a shelf alongside children's sleep sacks and blankets. This practice poses a hygiene risk, as waste bins can harbour bacteria and contaminants that may transfer to items used during sleep.
- During the inspection, staff were observed not following the correct nappy changing procedures. Specifically, staff did not wash the children's hands or their own hands after changing nappies. Additionally, gloves and aprons were not removed before applying a clean nappy and dressing the child.
- A significant amount of dust was observed on the ventilation vent in the baby/wobbler nappy changing area. This presents a hygiene concern, as dust accumulation can contribute to poor air quality and may harbour allergens or bacteria.

Safe Sleep:

- During the inspection, it was observed that the ambient temperature in the baby and wobbler sleep room was not maintained within the recommended safe ranges for sleeping children for children under 12 months, the temperature should be maintained between 16°C and 20°C. For children over 12 months, the recommended range is 18°C to 22°C. At 14:00 hours, while three children aged between 0–2 years were sleeping, the temperature in the baby/wobbler sleep room was recorded at 24.2°C, exceeding the upper limit. It is acknowledged that a window was open in the sleep room at the time and fan were running however, this was not sufficient to regulate the temperature effectively. An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the Registered Provider following the inspection. It is acknowledged that the provider responded promptly and outlined actions taken to mitigate the risk. The service has three designated sleep rooms, and the following temperatures were recorded during the inspection:

Room	Time	Temperature (°C)
Baby Room	10:56	24.4°C

Toddler Room	12:35	24.0°C
Toddler Room	12:41	23.1°C
Baby/Wobbler Room	14:00	24.2°C

- Staff in the toddler room were observed conducting sleep checks from an observation window located outside the room. Staff stated that it is their usual practice to carry out sleep checks from the observation window when children are not fully asleep. However, when the inspector stood at the observation window, it was noted that not all sleeping children were visible, and it was not possible to verify key aspects of the sleep check from that position.
- Digital clocks to record room temperatures were found not to be working correctly on the day of inspection. In the baby sleep room at 09.17 one clock was noted to return a recording of 22°C. The room temperature was recorded by the inspector as being 23.8°C. It is noted that immediate action was taken by staff, with windows being opened and sun blinds coming down, once this was brought to their attention. This was also noted in all the sleep room where the temperature reached 24.4°C at 10.56 but digital clock was reading 22°C.
- The blankets in the baby room appeared to be too small for the mattresses, causing them to turn up and leaving gaps along the sides. This poses a potential safety risk, as loose or ill-fitting bedding can increase the risk of entrapment or suffocation.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- To address sleep room temperatures, we have installed additional fans, updated our ventilation protocols, and replaced unreliable thermometers with portable units, with a rototherm device pending for calibration. We have implemented a mandatory 10-minute supervision and temperature-check log during sleep periods, ensuring staff manage sunlight, ventilation, and children's clothing appropriately. To prevent recurrence, we have scheduled a system service, introduced staff training on temperature

range management, and included temperature checks in our monthly safety audits while maintaining onsite backup cooling resources.

2. I have submitted the Garda Vetting renewal as a priority, updated the staff file, and briefed the team on maintaining up-to-date clearance. To prevent recurrence, I have established a vetting tracking log and an automated reminder system to trigger renewals three months in advance. Additionally, I updated our internal policies to mandate immediate renewal submissions and set strict restrictions for staff with pending or expired vetting, ensuring full ongoing compliance,
3. I have inspected all highchairs, removed any sub-standard units and ensured all remaining harnesses are fully functional. I have implemented a mandatory pre-meal safety checklist and a 'buddy check' system to verify that every child is secured in a five-point restraint. To maintain compliance, I have updated our internal policy to strictly prohibit seating children without secured harnesses, provided staff refresher training on mealtime safety, and added harness inspections to our monthly equipment audits.
4. I have fully remediated the outdoor hazards by removing all debris, repairing damaged stairs, and replacing non-compliant zip-tie fixings with certified secure hardware. To prevent recurrence, I have implemented a mandatory daily visual inspection and a comprehensive weekly safety checklist, while prohibiting the use of temporary repair materials. Furthermore, we have scheduled quarterly professional inspections and provided staff training on identifying and reporting structural hazards to ensure the outdoor environment remains safe and compliant.
5. The area was made safe immediately by restricting access and taking the slide out of use until essential maintenance was completed. Repairs were carried out to level the stairs and secure the wooden border, and the equipment was fully inspected following these repairs and deemed safe for immediate use.
6. I have replaced all non-compliant rope and zip ties with secure, standardized fixings and conducted a full structural safety audit of the play area. To prevent recurrence, I have implemented mandatory daily visual inspections by room leaders, prohibited the use of temporary repair materials, and scheduled quarterly professional inspections of all outdoor play equipment.

Infection Control:

7. I have relocated the foot-operated bin to the floor in its designated waste area and introduced a 'no bins above ground level' rule. The storage shelf was cleaned, re-organised, and all bedding was laundered to ensure zero contamination. To prevent recurrence, I have updated our Infection Control Policy to strictly prohibit storing waste-related items near bedding, clearly labelled all storage zones, and mandated daily room checks by the Room Leader to ensure hygiene items are stored correctly.

8. I have retrained staff on updated nappy-changing protocols, which now mandate immediate handwashing for children and the removal of PPE before applying clean nappies. To ensure compliance, I have displayed procedural posters, implemented daily spot checks with an audit checklist, and updated our Infection Control Policy to include monthly hygiene audits.
9. The ventilation vent was immediately cleaned, sanitized, and documented in line with infection control procedures. We have updated our cleaning schedule to include routine deep cleaning of all vents and have briefed staff on their responsibilities, with management now monitoring compliance to maintain a hygienic environment.

Safe Sleep:

10. we have addressed sleep room temperatures by installing additional fans, implementing an early-morning ventilation protocol, and replacing unreliable thermometers with portable units and a Rototherm device for calibration. We have introduced a mandatory temperature-check log recorded every 15–30 minutes during sleep periods, alongside 10-minute child supervision checks that monitor clothing and sunlight levels. To ensure long-term compliance, we have scheduled a system service, provided staff training on temperature management, and integrated temperature monitoring into our monthly safety audits and backup equipment protocols.
11. I have mandated that all sleep checks are conducted from inside the room to ensure full visibility and physical verification of each child's breathing and positioning. Staff have received refresher training on these safe sleep practices, and we have implemented regular management observations to monitor ongoing compliance and ensure children's safety.
12. we took immediate action by opening windows, lowering sun blinds, and installing fans to reduce room temperatures. We have implemented a new system to routinely verify the accuracy of all temperature-monitoring devices and now record all readings to address any deviations promptly. Staff have been retrained on acceptable temperature ranges and the specific protocols to follow if limits are exceeded to ensure a safe environment.
13. I have replaced all undersized blankets with correctly sized bedding that fully covers the mattresses without gaps. I have implemented a routine inspection schedule led by the Room Leader and a specific sleep items checklist to ensure all bedding meets safety dimensions. Furthermore, I have provided staff training on proper bedding placement and integrated mattress and blanket checks into our monthly environment audits to maintain full compliance with safe sleep standards.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence of thermometer and testing submitted, recording sheet in place.
2. Renewed garda vetting submitted for all staff that required it.
3. Photographic evidence 5-point harness submitted and staff rota for checking daily.
4. Photographic evidence of decking replaced.
5. Photographic evidence of slide no longer in use.
6. Photographic evidence of elevated play area no longer in use.

Infection Control:

7. Photographic evidence of bin located on the ground.
8. Log of nappy changing and gloves, ppe submitted and updated nappy changing policy sent in for review.
9. Photographic evidence of clean vent.

Safe Sleep:

10. Photographic evidence of new fans purchased, checks done daily and temperature of the sleep rooms.
11. Sleep check list submitted.
12. Photographic evidence of digital temperature on wall and hand held temperature gages reading the same temperature.
13. Photographic evidence of new bedding submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.

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

The minimum required ratio of qualified adults to children in attendance was maintained throughout the inspection. Staff were observed positioning themselves within sight and sound range of the children, allowing for effective supervision. During mealtimes, staff were observed to sit closely with the children at the tables, providing assistance when required and ensuring that children were supervised while eating. Staff positioned themselves strategically within the rooms to engage effectively with the children, offering supportive and attentive supervision.

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 that adequate insurance was in place for the full day care and preschool service, covering up to 130 children. The insurance policy was valid for the period 27th May 2025 to 27th March 2026.