

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS176
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Name of Service:	Ronanstown Women's Community Development Project Creche
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Address of Service:	Neilstown Village Court, Neilstown Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22,
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Eircode:	D22 V2C6
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rita Sweeney
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	15/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	H Sutherland
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).

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Description of service

Ronanstown Women's Community Development Project Creche is a not-for-profit service offering part-time care and education to children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from 9am to 2pm and operates out of two rooms in a purpose-built facility which is shared with another early years service. There is an outdoor area to the rear of the premises which is accessed directly from both rooms and is shared between the two services.

Staffing

There are seven adults currently employed to work in the service including the person in charge. On the day of the inspection there were ten adults present including, 6 staff working directly with the children, the person in charge, a cook and two adults employed through the Community Employment scheme. Two of the staff working directly with the children were employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). The registered provider does not work in 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 and records. 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

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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

(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*

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(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)

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises at all times during the inspection.
- (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

(2) Following a discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that five adults commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected. Documentation required under Regulation 9 (2), (3) and (4) was reviewed in respect of the five adults as detailed below. The requirements of Regulation 9(2)(c) relating to Garda vetting were reviewed for all adults working in the service including, one adult assigned as an emergency cover person.

- (a) Eight written and verified references were available from past employers.
- (b) One written and verified reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 11 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the five adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) Documentation reviewed showed that the procedures specified above under Regulation 9(2) (a) had not been carried out prior to one adult commencing employment in the service. Although there was a reference available for the adult from a previous employer, it had not been appropriately verified. The service was found to be non-compliant on Regulation 9 (2) (a) on the previous inspection. The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider has not prevented the non-compliance from recurring.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The referee was contacted and requested to verify the reference. The human resources department now covers the reference checks for all new employees.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Verified reference received

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 (3) 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The number of adults present and working directly with the children on the day of the inspection was appropriate to support their needs.
- (2) The minimum adult-to-child ratio was maintained for the duration of the inspection. There were 6 adults working directly with 18 children in the morning, and 6 adults working directly with 13 children in the afternoon.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A sample of eight children's files were reviewed as part of the inspection. The registered provider ensured that the information required under (1) (a)-(i) was maintained for each child.
- (3)
- (c) The registered provider ensured that the above records were available for inspection.

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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,

Compliance Information

The children's learning, development and wellbeing was supported through the following practices:

Children's meals and snacks were provided by the service, which consisted of breakfast, a hot meal and an afternoon snack. Drinking water was available and children were offered milk and water with their meals. Some of the children preferred to bring their meals from home and were accommodated to do so. Mealtime was observed to be a calm social occasion, with staff sitting with children, engaging them in conversation supporting their language development. Additional portions were available for children requesting more food. Older children were observed to tidy up after their meal which supported the development of their independence. Children were encouraged to develop good hand hygiene practices and were supported to wash their hands following messy play activities, before meals and after nappy changing. Nappy changing was a positive experience for children, with staff using the time for warm one to one interaction, supporting the children to feel safe and secure.

Staff were observed to be caring and respectful to the children, using their names and eye contact when engaging in conversation. During times with minor conflicts with children, staff were observed to drop to the children's level, take time to discuss the issue and invite solutions from the children. Staff were attentive to children's cues and acted promptly when children required support or a change in environment. Play was child led and children were observed to move freely around the care room and opt in and out of planned activities. Some children were engaged in small group play, while others chose to play independently and contently focused on their chosen activity. Staff reported that the service uses an online application to communicate key aspects of the children's day such as mealtimes, activities and nappy changing. They stated that parents were also provided with the opportunity to discuss their children at drop off and collection.

The indoor environments were laid out with low level storage containing a variety of equipment and materials to support children's sustained engagement. These included small world materials, puzzles, mark making materials, construction, books and role play areas. Displays such as, family and community walls were placed at the children's level, supporting their sense of identity and belonging and linking them to the wider community. Child

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size tables and chairs were available allowing children to sit comfortably during mealtimes and while engaging in activities. The outdoor space supported the development of children's gross motor skills and provided opportunity for risk taking. Children had access to items such as slides, a climbing frame, a playhouse, a sand box, construction materials, bikes and balance beams.

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 to the service were adequately secured to prevent unauthorised persons from entering and to ensure children could not exit unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents and hazardous materials were stored safely out of children's reach.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of the inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The window blinds were safe, with blind cords secured and out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were in use throughout the service, for example in bathrooms and the outdoor area.
- Liquid soap, warm running water and single use paper towels were available and accessible to children.
- The care rooms were visibly clean and well maintained.

Fire Safety:

- Staff adequately detailed the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire.
- The designated fire escape routes were clearly marked and free from obstruction on the day of the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

Administration of Medication:

1. There was no written consent or care plan available to guide staff on the symptoms, actions to take, dosage, timeframe and if required when to seek medical and emergency assistance for a child with prescribed medication for a medical condition. In addition, the medication was not stored in its original container with the child's name and clear directions for administration.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Administration of Medication:

A care plan was completed by the parent and is now stored in paper form and on a digital device in use daily in the care room, ensuring all staff have access to the document. All of the staff, management, and the human resource department have been notified about the care plan. The child's parent was asked to provide new medication that was clearly labelled with the child's details and instructions. Management will ensure that all staff are aware that children's medication must be clearly labelled, with their details and clear instructions on how to administer.

Supporting documentation submitted

Administration of Medication:

Care plan submitted

Photographic evidence of the medication submitted

Summary Comment

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service was adequately insured, evidenced by a current certificate of insurance relevant to the type of service being operated.