

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS177
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Rowlagh Women's Group Preschool
-------------------------	---------------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Áras Rualach, Neilstown Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	D22 DX47
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Marie Daly
-------------------------------------	------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/02/2026
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	10
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	H Sutherland
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Rowlagh Women’s Group preschool is a not for profit early years service operated by Crann Support Group. The service provides sessional and part time care and education to children aged 2–6 years. Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm, with two daily sessions: 9.00am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 5.00pm. The service is located in Áras Rualach, a community centre in Rowlagh, North Clondalkin, and comprises of two care rooms and an outdoor area situated to the side of the premises.

### Staffing

There are currently six adults employed to work directly with the children attending the service, including the person in charge. On the day of inspection there was five adults present working directly with the children. Additionally, there was one adult who had joined the service on a Community Employment (C.E.) scheme. 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (2) (a-d), (3), (4) Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 (1), (2) – Staffing Levels

Regulation 19 (1)(b) –Health Welfare and Development of Child

Regulation 20 (1)(a) –Facilities for Rest and Play

Regulation 23 –Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 (1), (2) –First Aid

However, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8- Notification of change in circumstances. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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

A referral was made to Services Operating Outside of Registration (SOORS). Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 8 in this report.

A referral was made to the Fire Prevention Officer regarding a concern identified during the inspection. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 point 1 in this report.

### 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 II - Registration and Register

### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

### Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider failed to notify the agency of a change to the age range of children being catered for. On the day of inspection, it was observed that the service was providing care to a school-age child. As the service is currently registered to cater for preschool children only, it was found to be operating outside the conditions of its registration.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The registered provider stated that the school-age child was the child of a staff member. Going forward, staff will be required to make alternative arrangements to ensure their children are cared for while they are at work.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

No evidence submitted

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 8 has been adequately addressed.

### 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.*

*(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

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available during inspection, and discussions with the person in charge, it was determined that three new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection on 23 May 2023. The three new staff members were employed to work directly with the children. Additionally, there was one adult present on a Community Employment (C.E.) scheme. The requirements of Regulation 9(2), (3), (4) were reviewed for the four adults. The requirements for Regulation 9 (2)(c) relating to Garda vetting were reviewed for all adults working in the service.

(a) Five 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 all adults.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the three adults employed to work 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. One adult did not require a qualification.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) Police vetting was not available in relation to one adult who previously lived outside of the State for a period of more than six months as an adult.
- (3) A review of documentation evidenced that the registered provider had not taken the required steps as outlined in Regulation 9(2)(a), (b), and (d) to ensure that new recruits were suitable and competent before allowing them access to children, as detailed below:
- Documentary evidence indicated that one adult had commenced employment within the service prior to the receipt of police vetting.
  - Documentary evidence indicated that one adult did not have their references validated before they commenced employment.
  - Although there was a reference available for one adult from a previous employer, it had not been verified by the registered provider. Additionally, there was no second reference available for the adult.
- Allowing staff to begin work with children before their suitability has been established may result in individuals who are not appropriate having access to children.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The registered provider submitted the following response.

The staff member has applied for Police vetting.

The recruitment policy has been updated, and all references will now be verified before an employee begins work in the service. The service will also hold a training day in April on recruitment protocols.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Verified references

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance in relation to Regulation 9(2)(d) remains outstanding as Police vetting has not been submitted for the staff member to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt.

### 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 inspector observed that an adequate number of adults were present and engaged in direct work with the children.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of the inspection. There were nine children present in the service, supervised by five adults.

### 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-*
- (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

The inspector observed appropriate and suitable care practices in place in the service as follows:

Staff reported that the service provides two daily meals and a snack. During mealtimes, staff were observed to sit with children and engage in conversation, supporting the development of the children’s social skills. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and ate their meals in a relaxed, unhurried manner. Drinks of water were freely available and offered to children with meals. The temperature in the care rooms was maintained at the required range, between 18–22°C.

Staff were respectful and warm when interacting with children, they dropped to their level and made eye contact. Staff supported autonomy by allowing children to make independent decisions about their play activities. When children asked for assistance, staff were observed to promptly respond, demonstrating they were actively

listening to the children. They took appropriate time to provide explanations when children questioned decisions made by their peers, supporting their sense of understanding.

Aprons were provided to protect children's clothing during messy play activities. Handwashing routines were supervised and supported. Children were observed to independently wash their hands after using the toilet, before their meal, and after messy play activities. Rest areas were available in the care rooms, providing children with a quiet space when they required a rest or time away from group activities. Staff explained how they use an online application to share information with parents/guardians on key aspects of the children's day, including meals and activities. Daily opportunities are provided for parents/guardians to have discussions about their child's daily experiences during drop-off and collection.

### Non-Compliance Information

Children were not provided with daily opportunities to engage in outdoor play. During discussions with the inspector, it was identified that children had not been brought to the outdoor area since December 2025, limiting their opportunity for physical exercise, fresh air, and exploration while in the service. While an outdoor area was available, access was not embedded into the daily routine.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The garden has since been cleaned of rubbish and the debris has been removed. The children have had daily access to the garden since the inspection. A portion of the garden is due to be upgraded with an alternative surface; the service is awaiting a start date for work to begin.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Images of the outdoor environment

### Summary Comment

The non-compliance identified under Regulation 19 has been adequately addressed and will be subject to review on the next inspection.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day

#### Compliance Information

- The care rooms were laid out in an organised manner, enabling children to move easily between activities.
- A broad selection of play materials and equipment were displayed on open, low-level shelving to support independent access.
- The environment included clearly defined areas of interest, such as a home corner, construction space, dress-up area, and facilities for messy play.
- The outdoor area was equipped with materials to support imaginary play, literacy, gross motor skills, challenge, and safe risk.

### 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:

- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of children's reach.
- All toys and equipment observed on the day of inspection were in good condition and free from pinch or crush points.
- The windows were safely secured.

##### Infection Control:

- The children's bathroom was equipped with warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels to support effective handwashing practices.
- Pedal-operated bins were available throughout the service to support the safe disposal of waste.

- The tables were sanitised after activities and before lunch.

### Administration of Medication:

- The person in charge stated that none of the children had received prescribed medication while attending the service.
- Staff demonstrated an understanding of the procedure for administering temperature reducing medication. Their practice included securing written consent from parents/guardians, ensuring a second staff member was present to witness the administration, and completing records to be provided to parents/guardians at collection
- Administration of medication forms were available for use if required.

### 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 inspection.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. The entrance doors to the preschool rooms were unsecured, posing a risk of unauthorised entry from the from the reception area of the community centre or a child leaving unsupervised. This concern was raised during the previous inspection on 23 May 2023. The preventive actions submitted following this inspection have not prevented the non-compliance from recurring.
2. The lock on a low-level press in the kitchen area was broken. The press contained hazardous objects, which included two bottles of deodorant and could pose a risk to children.
3. A door leading to an office directly off the play space in the Preschool 2 room was observed to be open. The inspector observed hazardous items such as paint and liquid correction fluid stored in the office. These items pose a risk to children's safety.
4. The outdoor area was not maintained to ensure a safe space for children to play. There was a build-up of rubbish and sharp brambles along the perimeter fence.
5. An electrical cable was not safely secured in the Preschool 1 room. A trailing cable from an electric heater was not safely secured out of children's reach, posing a tripping hazard to children.

**Infection Control:**

6. A vinyl mat in use by the children in the Preschool 2 room was observed to be heavily soiled with a build-up of dirt and dust, posing a risk of the spread of infection.

**Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

**Corrective & Preventive Action**

**General Safety:**

1. A memo has been sent to all staff to ensure the doors to reception are secured at all times and new locks have been fitted.
2. The hazardous objects have been removed and the presses have been fitted with safety locks.
3. The hazardous objects have been removed from the office and the office door will be secured at all times when not in use.
4. The garden has been cleaned and made safe for outdoor play.
5. The electric heater has been removed from the preschool room. When the heater is required in the care room, the cable will be safely secured to the wall.

**Infection Control:**

6. The mat has been cleaned and staff have been advised to adhere to the cleaning schedules.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

Images of locks

Image of the outdoor area

**Infection Control:**

No evidence submitted

**Summary Comment**

The actions submitted have been deemed to adequately address the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23. The registered provider must ensure that any locking mechanisms placed on exits are in keeping with fire legislation and do not impede the safe evacuation of children in the event of a fire.

## 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) There was evidence to show that two adults hold certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training, and both were available for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and stored safely in an easily accessible and prominent position in the kitchen area in the Preschool 1 room.

(b) The first aid box was observed to be readily available to the adults caring for the children attending the service.