

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015GY219

Name of Service: Rosebuds Pre-School

Address of Service: Scoil Rois, Rosary Lane, Taylors Hill, Co. Galway

Eircode: H91 W2V9

Name of Registered Provider: Alexandra Monaghan

Service type: Part Time

Date of Inspection: 02/12/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	25	PM	17
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A- (1st Floor-Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Nic Dhonnacha
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Rosebuds Preschool service operates from a modular building on school grounds adjacent to Scoil Róis on Taylor's Hill in Galway city. The programme of care is facilitated Monday to Friday, 08:50 to 13:30 providing part-time and sessional care for preschool children aged 2 to 6 years old. The building comprises of 2 playrooms, Playroom 1 and Playroom 2, an entrance lobby, sanitary facilities and a designated nappy changing area. There is a designated outdoor play area to the rear of the premises with 2 all-weather sheltered areas. The programme of care and learning is provided between the 2 playrooms with the children having open access to both rooms and the outdoor play area throughout the day. The preschool provides a play-based curriculum with a focus on emerging interests of the children.

Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge. The registered provider is involved in the day-to-day operation of the service. Five adults (including the registered provider) work directly with the children. Documentary evidence was available of the adult's engagement in training and education.

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 premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 Record in Relation to Pre-School Service.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises.

(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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person and there was a deputy person available to deputise as required.

(b) Both the designated person in charge and the person who is assigned as deputy were available throughout the inspection.

Five files were available in respect of the registered provider, deputy person in charge and 3 childcare workers who provide additional support during the service's hours of operation. The findings included the following:

- (2)(a) Six written references were sourced from past employers and validated.
- (b) Four written references were obtained from a source other than a past employer and validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available and reviewed in respect of the registered provider, deputy person in charge and 3 additional adults who work directly with the children in the service.
- (d) One international police vetting was available and translated, as 1 staff member had lived in another state for a period longer than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) The staff working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 6 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
- (6)(A) One of the 5 adults was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model of Care and was providing additional support.

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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service.
- There were 5 adults working directly with 25 children in the morning and 3 adults caring for 17 children in the afternoon.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of inspection.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises while the pre-school was operating.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

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

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) (h) Details of children’s attendance was accurately recorded.

(i) A staff roster was available.

(k) Details of accidents and incidents were recorded and there were handwritten signatures available that parents were informed following an accident or incident involving their child.

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

(1)(a) **Basic Needs of Children:**

- The adults treated the children in a respectful and caring manner. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions with the children. The adults praised and encouraged the children, conversed with the children at their level, used soft tones of voice, responded promptly to their cues for assistance and comfort. The adults demonstrated an awareness of the children’s capabilities, interests and preferences.
- The children were encouraged to be independent in play and learning, whilst caring for their belongings, at mealtime and whilst using the toilet.
- The children had the freedom to move around into the various interest areas, sit together to carry out tabletop activities and to join in to group work together.

- The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care and prompted to wipe their noses at different times throughout the day. The children went to the toilet independently while supervision and support was always offered.
- A rolling snack time was observed in Playroom 1. The children requested their meal/snack when hungry and sat at the table with their peers and staff. For the children attending the part-time service a food delivery company provided the meals. Each child had a different hot lunch. The parents had the opportunity to choose the main meal of the day in advance for their child. There was a variety of nutritious hot food observed for example soup and rolls, stir fry with meat and vegetables, pasta with meatballs and bolognaise sauce, toasted sandwiches and baps. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion. The children's water bottles were accessible throughout the sessional and part-time service provision.

Supporting Relationships

- The staff were observed encouraging children to think critically, ask questions and respond to them in a way that nurtured and comforted the children- using soft tones, the child's individual name, getting down to their level and making eye contact.
- The service provided parents and guardians with daily information, including events or activities involving their child, for example, verbal communication at drops off and collection times and via each child's learning scrapbook. The staff collated a profile scrapbook for each individual child, showing the 'child's journey' using observations and including samples of a child's work and themes.
- The children were observed to be fully engaged in play and made smooth transitions between the activity areas and the indoor and outdoor areas throughout the day.
- The children were observed to free play, at story time, at construction building, connecting, at pretend kitchen/house, playing with farm animals, dress up and costumes, making puzzles and jigsaws. In the outdoor area, the children were observed playing with the sand basin, on the slides, on the swings and playing in the playhouse. The children had the freedom to move indoors or outdoors throughout the day.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The two playrooms were bright and laid out to enable the children to freely access the equipment and materials. The rooms were well planned and resourced with a variety of activity areas to ensure that children were provided with choice and options which supported individual and group play and emerging interests.

- The walls of the playroom displayed educational posters, murals and the children’s varied artwork and designs. These included numerical and alphabetical learning aids, family and birthday sections (picture and word reminders) and instructions were displayed and used with the children to support their learning.
- The interest areas were appropriately resourced with a home corner, arts and crafts, puzzles, mathematical and counting toys, construction area, imaginary doll play area, arts and crafts, dress up and role play area. Activity mats for the children to sit and enjoy small world toys were provided.
- There was a quiet rest area with wipeable couch and cushions with adjacent reading materials where the children could rest and relax.
- Low level shelving units were accessible to the children with a range of toys and play materials including manipulative, sensory, imaginative and constructive toys and learning materials for the age and level of development of the children attending the service.

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:

- There was a secure system on the door into the preschool service.
- The outdoor play area was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any risk to the pre-school child.
- Staff supervised all children by both sight and sound in all areas.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children and stored in secured areas.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all the children attending the preschool service.

Infection Control:

- The designated nappy changing unit had a clean intact mat, with gloves and aprons available for changing purposes.
- There was an airtight foot pedalled nappy changing bin available for safe disposal of soiled nappies.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing and the barrier creams were clearly individually labelled and stored within the nappy changing area.
- There were cleaning schedules and records for the 2 playrooms, sanitary areas, outdoor areas and on the cleaning and disinfection procedure undertaken in the service.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray on a regular basis throughout the day.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and door left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playroom and in the outdoor play area.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was administered on the day of inspection.
- The registered provider advised that all staff members were aware of their service medication administration policy.

Safe Sleep:

- Playroom 1 had a designated soft seating area with wipeable couches, matting and cushions. No child showed cues of tiredness on the day of inspection. The staff provided relaxation time. A staff member read a story during this period for the children after lunch.
- Additionally, the children had time to rest and relax during a mindfulness relaxation session.
- It was acknowledged by the registered provider that stackable beds were available and individual bed linen if any child required a sleep during the hours of operation.

Fire Safety:

- A record of monthly fire drills was maintained by the service.
- Clear visible signage was available at fire exit doors.

Outing:

- No outing was carried out on the day of inspection.

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) Two adults had up to date FAR (First Aid Responder) first aid training course certification and were available to the children during the hours of operation of the service.
- (2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in readily identifiable areas in each care room and the office.
- (b) First aid boxes were available in each room and the office for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 24/11/2025.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system were available. The most recent firefighting equipment maintenance service took place on the 5/11/2025. The most recent fire alarm maintenance service took place in conjunction with the national school on the 3/11/2026.
- (4) Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed throughout the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for 44 pre-school children. The policy is valid until the 27/03/ 2024.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (e)
- A new designated nappy changing area was located in an unused toilet cubicle, with a designated wash hand basin for nappy changing purposes.
 - Three toilets and 3 wash hand basins were available for the preschool children attending the preschool service.
 - Additionally, there was a wash hand basin in each playroom.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. There was evidence of wood rot on the wooden fascia on the gable end (above the entrance door to Playroom 1) and the surrounding building, this required maintenance and repair.
It was acknowledged by the registered provider that it was brought to the attention of the board of management of the national school previously. This non-compliance remains outstanding since the previous report on 11/11/2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On 5/1/2026 the registered provider advised of the following.

Corrective and Preventive Action

Some maintenance and repair work was carried out on the wooden fascia above the entrance door to Playroom 1 only on the 5/1/2026. It was acknowledged that further repair works, sanding and painting was expected to be

carried out in the spring of 2026. The preschool service will keep a closer eye on the exterior building and will liaise with the primary school board of management for the future works to be carried out.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of the repair and maintenance work carried out to the wooden fascia above the entrance door to Playroom 1 was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider to address the non-compliance under Regulation 29(d) and outstanding non-compliance from the previous inspection on 11/11/2024 did not provide adequate assurance that the non-compliance had been rectified. It was acknowledged that some repair and maintenance work had been carried out since the 5/1/2026 and additional repair and maintenance is estimated to be completed in the spring of 2026. Therefore, the non-compliance remains outstanding and will be reviewed on next inspection.