

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY268
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Name of Service:	Tiny Tots Creche & Educational Preschool
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Address of Service:	Enterprise Centre, Parkmore, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H53 H2W5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Erol Moody, Jennifer Sheridan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	15/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	46	PM	42
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly, B Lavin
Title:	Early Years Inspectors.

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

This full day care service was the enterprise centre grounds, in Creagh, on the outskirts Ballinasloe town, county Galway. The service operated a full day care from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs. The service caters for children aged 0 to 6 years. The service is registered for a maximum number of 54 children, at any one time. The service was registered for a school aged service. There were four ground floor playrooms- the Baby room, Toddler room, Junior Pre-school room and Senior Pre-school room. There was a designated kitchen where the main meal was prepared and cooked. There were two sleep rooms with two cots and three cots respectively, available for younger children's sleep provision. There is a designated outdoor area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The two registered providers work in the premises. There was a designated person in charge and a named deputy person in charge. There are a total of 11 staff including the 2 registered providers. Eleven staff hold at least a major award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland.

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.

On inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23- Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. 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 .

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers, 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, as far 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)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy person in charge was designated person in charge when the inspectors arrived and within a short time the registered provider the arrived at the service and facilitated the inspection.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with one of the registered provider's it was confirmed that there were 11 staff members employed in the service.

(2)(a) Sixteen of the 22 references required were sourced from past employers and were validated.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, six references were obtained from a source other than a past employer and were validated.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 11 staff and student. The service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police Vetting disclosures was available for two adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months

(4) Ten adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education from a level 5 to a level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the day, there were 46 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning.
- (2) At 10.300 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation:
 - Baby room, there was 1 adult caring for 5 children aged between 1 and 2 years of age.
 - Toddler room, there were 2 adults caring for 10 children aged between 1 year 11 months and 2 years 11 months.
 - Junior Pre-school , there were 3 adults caring for 21 children aged between 2 years 8 months and 3 years 6 months.
 - Senior Pre-school there was 1 adult caring for 10 children aged between 4 and 5 years of age.

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-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) (a) to (i)

The inspectors reviewed a random sample of 10 children's records. The records contained the required details as laid out under the Regulation.

(3) The required records as outlined in paragraph (1) was made available for inspection on the inspection by the following people :

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and
- (c) an authorised person the person in charge on request.

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

Basic Needs:

- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be as independent as possible.
- The children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner.
- Nutritious meals and snacks were provided by the service and served at regular times.
- Each child had enough time to eat and enjoy their meals and snacks without being rushed.
- Each child had individual labelled drink cups and these were stored within reach of the children.
- The tables, chairs and highchairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- The staff encouraged children to feed themselves independently, according to their age and stage of development.
- The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- The staff responded to children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to nappy changing, toileting and toilet training. The privacy and dignity of a child having their nappy changed was maintained. The older children in the pre-school rooms, had unrestricted access to the toilets and did not have to wait to use the toilet. The staff responded to children's cues quickly.
- The staff provided for each child's comfort and need for rest, relaxation in each of the playrooms. The pre-school rooms had safe and comfortable spaces for babies and toddlers to lie, roll, creep, crawl, pull themselves up and learn to walk.
- Individual sleep needs were met, and this was observed on the day of inspection as children slept at times suited to their individual needs.
- Children were aware of routines and daily transitions were seamless and made as comfortable as possible for example going outside, getting ready for meals and sleep provision.
- The children were observed at free play both indoors and outdoors. They children played through connecting, stacking, building, linking, doing puzzles and tabletop activities. The children had a variety of

outdoor toys to play from. In the outdoor area designated to the babies they played with swings, ride on toys, scooters, a seesaw and a small climbing frame with a slide. In the older children's outdoor area the children had access to a tree house, climbing frame, swings, ride on toys and a chalk board.

- The children had opportunities to move around freely to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.
- The staff used visual aids and probed with questions such as 'who is this?' 'How many are there,' and 'where is that.' The children enjoyed action songs, mealtime songs and children's learning songs.

Supporting relationships:

The staff supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by -

- showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust,
- listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children's cues, gestures and body language,
- using soft tones, the child's individual name and getting down to their level and making eye contact,
- providing opportunities for individual and small group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork and a sense of belonging,
- providing opportunities for children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute to projects and tasks,
- working with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child's interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life and any other concerns.
- When speaking with the staff, the inspectors were informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child's experiences in the service including the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in.
- The staff ensured that the children had ongoing opportunities to interact informally with one another for example at free play, parallel play, outdoor play and eating together.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for one named staff members. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Safe Sleep:

2. A child aged less than two years of age was sleeping on a stackable floor bed in the toddler room. As per the Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months document stackable beds for children under 24 months are not permitted for children under 24 months as they are not sufficiently comfortable or conducive to sleep. All floor beds must have flat, firm and waterproof mattress (minimum 6cm in depth) and offers the child the same level of support and comfort as they would while sleeping in a cot

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered providers stated the following in their reply:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting disclosure was obtained for the staff member that required the updated vetting. In future we will ensure that all vetting disclosures are renewed every three years as required.

Safe Sleep:

2. A suitable floor bed and mattress as per the guidelines for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision is now used for children under the age of 24 months. Staff were made aware of these changes and will be reviewed by management to ensure that the correct floor beds are used in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

On the 06/05/25, the registered provider submitted a copy of the Garda vetting disclosure form to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Safe Sleep:

On the 18/06/25, a photograph of the appropriate floor beds and mattress was submitted to the Early Years inspectorate.

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Summary Comment

The evidence and the actions submitted were reviewed by the early year's inspectorate. The non-compliance is identified under regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.