

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY284
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tuam Community Childcare Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Parkmore Estate, Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H54 V663
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Louise O'Shaughnessy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	10/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	24	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Kelly.
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<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

This community service was located in a purpose-built building in a residential housing estate on the outskirts of Tuam town, county Galway. The building consists of five playrooms, dedicated sleep room and a separate kitchen/dining room. The children also have access to a number of outdoor play areas.

### Staffing

There were 13 adults working in the service which includes the registered provider and an administrative staff member, 1 kitchen staff and 1 student on working placement .

### 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 announced and focused on the area of governance, the 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:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

24 and 19 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under regulation 23.

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 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, and*

*(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)(a)

The manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider was designated person in charge and was available throughout the inspection.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider it was confirmed that there were 12 staff members employed in the service. Additionally, it was noted on the day that there was one student on a childcare placement on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)

Twenty-one of the required twenty-six references required were sourced from past employers and were validated.

(b)

Where past employer references were not available, five references were obtained from a source other than a past employer and were validated.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 12 staff and 1 student. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police Vetting disclosures was available for one adult 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 24 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning.
- (2) At 10.00 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation:
- Baby room, there was 1 adult caring for 1 baby.
  - Playroom 2, there was 1 adult caring for 4 children.
  - Playroom 3, there were 2 adults caring for 7 children.
  - Playroom 4, there were 2 adults caring for 6 children.
  - The Cabin, there were 2 adults caring for 6 children.

### 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

##### Basic Needs.

- The service promoted an awareness of healthy habits in children this was observed in the day when children washed their hands prior to their snack time and after outdoor play.
- The atmosphere during snack time was relaxed, the staff members were observed sitting with the children, eating with them, talking and engaging with the children in a positive manner. Each child was given time to finish their lunch and were not rushed in any way.
- The children tidied up after their snack time and tidied away their belongings without any prompting from the staff members.
- The staff members encouraged the children to manage their own personal care, children were observed putting on their own coats using the "toe to tag method". The staff only offered help when needed or when the children requested help. This encouraged the children's independence.
- Children were given the opportunity to move freely around the playrooms and explore their play environment. This was also observed on the day when three children that were playing outside wanted to go back inside to the playroom to look and read it story books. A staff member accompanied the three children to the playroom, where they sat for a short period of time reading and looking at storybooks. When the children wanted to return to the outdoor play area this request was also accommodated.
- The staff member caring for the younger children had introduced the "first/then strategy". When working with the younger children this strategy helped a child participate in activity that they required support to engage in. For example, when a child needed help or support to tidy up after an activity but enjoyed the outdoor play area. The child was informed that an activity needed to be tidied up first and then they could play in the outdoor play area.

- The service used a child centred approach and had created an inclusive learning environment. This was evident in one of the playrooms where an area displayed “The sense of belonging area”. Which included a culture wall, a community wall, the family tree area, a birthday wall and a friendship wreath section.

### 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:

On the day of inspection, it was noted that there was damage to the fencing area in the outdoor play area, which could result in children having access to the car park.

It was noted on the day of inspection that a staff member was positioned in a supervisory role at this exit area thus preventing children exit this area unsupervised.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

The registered Provider stated the following in their reply: the damaged section of fencing was replaced in the outdoor play area. Regular checks and risk assessments of the outdoor play area will take place and any issues identified will be promptly dealt with.

##### Evidence Submitted:

On the 16/05/2025, the registered provider submitted photographic evidence of the repaired fence in the outdoor play area.

#### 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 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
The registered provider had ensured that each child attending the service was checked in and out by a staff member each day. This was evident on the day, on review of the attendance books that were available in each of the playrooms. The staff members working in each of the playrooms were responsible for signing the children in and out each day.