

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY288
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Young At Art Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	St. Gabriels Club House, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H53 CY50
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Catherine O'Reilly
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/06/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	16	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child & Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - 1st Floor, Merlin Park University Hospital, Galway.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Kelly.
<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
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### Description of service

This sessional service is located in a rural setting in the village of Kilconnell in east county Galway. It was established in 1996. A service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm.

### Staffing

There were three adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection which included the registered provider.

### 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, premises and facilities. 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 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, 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was in charge was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that there were three members of staff employed in the service, which included the registered provider.

The three staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were four of the required six written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(b) There were two written and appropriately validated references available from a reputable source other than the most recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the three staff working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting for staff members every three years.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for one adult working in the service as they had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months.

(4) All adults working directly with children have obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at least an level 5 or equivalent 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.*

*(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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.
- (3) On the morning of inspection, there were 3 adults caring for the 16 pre-school children attending the session.

### 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.

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Snacks and children's drinks were available to the children when they required them. Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack without being rushed. The children tidy away their lunch boxes and returned their bags to the area beside the exit door when they had finished their snack.
- Children were independent with their toileting needs and they had unrestricted access to the toilet that was located adjacent to the playroom. Assistance was offered to the children when required.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunch and after toileting.
- The children had access to a relaxation area and soft seating in the playroom.
- The children were encouraged to be independent in meeting their own needs. The children were encouraged to put on their jackets, the staff members helped but let the children do as much as they could prior to intervening.
- The children got to use the outdoor play area throughout the session. The children had suitable outdoor footwear and jackets to wear in bad weather. This was observed on the day when children wore their outdoor jackets when they were playing in the outdoor area. Here they were observed digging and playing in the mud kitchen, riding the selection of ride on toys, climbing on the play equipment and balancing on the beams on the floor. The children appeared happy and content exploring the different areas of the space. This was evident from the laughter while playing.