

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE064
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Name of Service:	Rose Cottage Playschool
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Address of Service:	1311 Rose Cottage, Kill West, Kill, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W91 VE24
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Name of Registered Provider:	Brenda Cummins
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre Child and Family Agency Ballymore Eustace Road Naas
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Maher
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.
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Description of service

Rose Cottage playschool is a sessional service that operates from a standalone modular unit to the rear of the registered providers' private home in the village of Kill Co. Kildare. One pre-school room and sanitary accommodation are provided. An enclosed play area is located to the side/rear of the premises. Sessional care and education is provided to children aged 2-6 years old. Opening hours are from 9:20am-12:20pm Monday-Friday for 38 weeks of the pre-school year.

Staffing

The service is operated single handedly by the registered provider who was present and working directly with the children on the day of inspection. An emergency person is available should the need arise and lives close by.

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 and safety. 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 and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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.

(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

The records of the registered provider and emergency person were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b)

Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of two adults whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and the emergency person.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no adult had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

The registered provider, who works directly with the children and whose record was reviewed, held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1)

There were 7 children attending the service being supervised directly by the registered provider during the inspection.

(3)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6.

(8)(c)

The service was operated single-handedly; the emergency person lived close by and was available to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency occurring.

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-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

Seven children were currently enrolled in the service. The seven enrolment forms were assessed and contained the relevant written details outlined in (a)-(i) of the regulation.

(3)(c)

All child records were available and open for inspection.

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:

- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (j)
No medication had been administered to any child attending the service, however, an administration of medicine book, recording the details of the child and any medicine administered including staff and parental signatures was available if required in the service.
- (k)
An accident and incident record book was available and reviewed. No accidents or incidents had occurred or had been recorded in recent years in the service; this was confirmed by the registered provider.

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:

The main entrance door to the service was secure and controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school service.

No hazards were observed in the indoor environment or in the outdoor play area.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents which were observed stored on high-level shelving or in secured cupboards in the pre-school room.

Infection Control:

Children's hand washing routines were well established and children were observed washing their hands after toilet use and as needed.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towel, dispensed from wall mounted units were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues, paper towel and any waste. The registered provider was responsible for all cleaning duties and cleaning schedules were in place for the room and sanitary environments which were observed maintained in a clean condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection; written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child.

Fire Safety:

Regular monthly fire drills were recorded, and the fire exits were not obstructed.

Outing:

Outings do not take place from the service; this was confirmed by the registered provider.

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.*
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) no person other than-*
 - (i) pre-school child attending the service,*
 - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*
 - (iii) an employee, or*
 - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*
 - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in real time in the pre-school room.
- (2)
Not applicable as this was not a drop-in service.
- (3) (a),(b)
The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.

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)
The registered provider was trained in in first aid response (FAR) and was immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)(a)
The first aid equipment was safely stored and in a conspicuous position in the pre-school room.
- (b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available at all times to the adult caring for the children attending the service.

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 fire fighting 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)

A record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last recorded fire drill was dated 8 December 2025.

(b)

There were records available detailing the maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke/fire detection system in the service, these were dated January 2025 and 11 December 2025 respectively.

(4)

Notices were displayed detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.