

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE157
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Name of Service:	Shining Stars Pre- School
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Address of Service:	50 Oaklawn West, Leixlip, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W23 D903
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aylish Smyth
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	13/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 X38W.
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mulhern
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).

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Description of service

Shining Stars Pre-school is a privately operated sessional service for children aged 2-6 years. The service operates from a purpose-built building attached to a domestic dwelling with an outdoor area at the rear. The premises is located in a residential area on the outskirts of an urban area. The service operates a morning and afternoon session, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

Staffing

There are three staff employed to work in the service including 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child 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

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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, 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.

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Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge or a person who could deputise to be present at all times of opening.
- (2)(a) & (b) Appropriate consideration had been given to references. A minimum of two references had been sourced from past employers or from another source where adults had only one or no previous employers. Records of verification checks were available.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all three adults. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting had been sourced for two adults who had lived in another state for more than six months as an adult.
- (4) All adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.*

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Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 3 adults working directly with 16 children.
- (3) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service provided was always maintained.

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

The children's learning, development, and well-being was supported by the adults and the environment. The children engaged in free-play and activities. There were defined interest areas to support play including an arts and crafts area, home corner, construction area and a messy play area with sand and water. Books were available to support language development. The outdoor area included trees and plants and had a variety of equipment for play which included balls, and a playhouse. The inspector observed the children engaging in self-directed play which included painting, construction, reading, sand and water play and imaginary play. They appeared engaged and content in their play. An area was available where children could rest or take a break from activities.

The adults engaged kindly with the children and demonstrated an understanding of their individual needs and preferences. They supervised toilet-use whilst supporting the children's independence. They ensured the children were wearing their coats before going outside and drinks of water were always available. The children brought food from home and could choose when to eat between 10am and 11am. They could eat indoors or outdoors according to their preference. The children sat together in small groups when eating with adults supporting conversation and independence. The registered provider told the inspector that apps are used to communicate with parents and that parents are welcome to visit the service at any time.

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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:

Entrances and exits were secured to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised. Equipment and materials were well maintained and suitable to the ages and stages of the children. Hazardous items including cables and cleaning products were secured out of children's reach. Emergency exits were kept clear and monthly fire drill records were available.

Infection Control:

The premises and equipment appeared clean and cleaning schedules were in place. Sanitary facilities were equipped to support handwashing. The children washed their hands at appropriate times including after toileting, after outdoor play and before eating. Pedal operated bins were in place to manage waste appropriately. Staff demonstrated an awareness of exclusion periods for children displaying signs or symptoms of infectious diseases.

Administration of Medication:

None of the children attending required medication. Staff demonstrated an awareness of how to administer medicine safely if required including obtaining written parent consent, having a second staff member witness the administration and making a record. Medication documentation templates were available to support record keeping.

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.*

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Compliance Information

- (1) An adult trained in first aid was present during the inspection. This adult was rostered to be present at all times of opening.
- (2)
- (a) The service had a suitably equipped first aid box which was stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The first aid box was always available for use by staff.

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 written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had been carried out in the service. The most recent fire drill record was dated 30 April 2026.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm. The most recent dates of testing were 25 August 2025 and 3 September 2025 respectively.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The adults were observed supervising the children appropriately at all times. This included when they were playing indoors and outdoors, eating and using the sanitary facilities.