

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE171
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Kildangan Education Centre
-------------------------	----------------------------

Address of Service:	Unit 1&2 The Village Centre, Kildangan, Nr Monasterevin, Co. Kildare
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	W34 FT95
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Michael O'Sullivan
-------------------------------------	--------------------

Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

Date of Inspection:	20/05/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency Suite 7 Vista Primary Care Centre Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare W91 X38W
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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Description of service

This private part time service is one of two services operated by the registered provider in Kildare, the second being a sessional service in Kilberry primary school Athy.

A sessional service is offered to children aged between 2-6 years from 9:00am-12:00pm and the part time service concludes at 14:00pm. The service is located on the ground floor of a small apartment complex in the village of Kildangan Co. Kildare. Two large pre-school rooms are provided and an outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises. Kitchen facilities were located in Room 1.

The service is registered for school aged care.

Staffing

There were six adults employed and present in the service working directly with the children on the day of the inspection and included the manager of the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children and was not present.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under,

- Regulation 9 (1), (2)(a)(b)(c), (4) - Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11(1), (2), (8)(a) - Staffing Levels
- Regulation 15 - Record of a Pre-school Child
- Regulation 16 (h) (j) (k) - Record in Relation to Pre-school Service
- Regulation 20 (1)(b) - Facilities for Rest and Play
- Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) - First aid
- Regulation 26 - Fire Safety
- Regulation 27 - Supervision

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 manager, 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)(b)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

The records of six staff members employed and present in the service were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b)

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

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all employed staff members.

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

(d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

All members of staff employed and who work directly with the children whose records were 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.

(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.

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

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1)

There were 33 children attending the service being supervised directly by 6 adults.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6.

(8)(a)

There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for the service.

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 sample size of 10 child enrolment forms were reviewed.

The information for each child as outlined in (a)-(i) of this regulation was completed for each record reviewed.

(3)(c)

The records were available 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:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(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.

temporary pre-school service, for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises,

Compliance Information

(1)(h)

A written record was available in each pre-school room detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection and included arrival and departure times.

(j)

Medicine had not been administered in the service within the previous year, however, documentation was available to record any medication should it be required. Parental consent was required to administer any medication to a child while attending the service.

(k)

A sample of 10 accident and incident forms were reviewed and contained the relevant written details as the record required.

(3)

The documents, as described above, were available for inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

There were comfortable child sized couches and cushions in each room creating a cosy rest area for the children to use if they wished to sit comfortably, rest or read a book.

Low-level beds were available should a child wish to lie down and rest/sleep when attending the part time service.

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 doors to each of the pre-school rooms in the service were secured and controlled by staff to prevent the pre-school children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.

Daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed by staff and available for inspection.

Any hazardous items, such as cleaning equipment, was stored out of reach of the children. Staff members advised the inspector they immediately cut/halve any food items observed provided for the children's snack that were a potential choking hazard. Staff were also aware of the danger posed by beaded necklaces should a child arrive to the service wearing same and explained they would immediately remove them.

Infection Control:

Children's hands were routinely washed before eating, following toilet use, outdoor and messy play. There was a supply of liquid hand soap and paper towel at the sinks to support hygienic hand washing and foot pedal operated bins were available for the hygienic disposal of used paper hand towel and tissues. Both pre-school rooms and

sanitary areas were observed maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection and in conversation with staff members, they were aware of the procedures to be followed to administer medicine safely to a child if required while attending the service. Staff advised no child attending the service required ongoing or emergency medication.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were clearly signed and unobstructed in each pre-school room. Regular monthly fire drills were recorded.

Outing:

A yearly outing takes place from the service and an outings policy was in place to guide practice.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The following safety concerns, in relation to a section of the wooden fence that enclosed the play area to the rear of the service, were observed,
 - A section of the fence was unstable and loose when handled
 - A horizontal wooden beam was loose and partly detached from the fence adjacent to one of the fire escape routes
 - A supporting beam was observed to have rotted at its base leaving exposed jagged edges and potentially further destabilising the structure

These safety issues had the potential to cause an injury to a child should the structure collapse when children were playing in the area and/or from a scrape/splinter injury.

- The wooden slats on the seating area in the outdoor play area were observed to have deteriorated in parts with some of the slats missing, some had exposed jagged edges and an exposed metal nail was also observed; this had the potential to cause an injury to a child from entrapment and/or a scrape/splinter injury. It is acknowledged this area was cordoned off with play equipment to prevent children accessing this play space.

Fire Safety:

- One of the two wooden gates, located at either end of the wooden fence, was observed tied with rope to provide stability and anchor the gate in place and therefore unusable as a fire exit route; it is acknowledged there was a second gate that functioned as the fire exit route from the area.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A builder has been engaged to remove all the old broken perimeter fence as well as supporting beams that were detached from the fence adjacent to one of the fire exits. New perimeter fencing and 2 fire exit gates have been purchased and will be erected by 31/07/2025.
Until the new gate is installed the wooden gate is tied securely and the other functioning gate will be used as a fire exit route. Once the new perimeter fencing/gates are in place regular checks and maintenance will be carried out to ensure all is fit for purpose.
2. A builder has been engaged to remove the wooden slats on the seating area in the outdoor play area. This will be completed by 31/07/25. The area remains cordoned off preventing children from accessing this area. Benches already in use in the garden will be used to replace this wooden seating area – benches will be regularly checked and maintained fit for purpose.

Corrective & Preventive Action

Fire Safety:

3. A builder has been engaged to remove the wooden gate which is broken in the outdoor play area and replace with a new metal gate which fits in with the new perimeter fencing. This will be completed by 31/07/25. The new gate will be labelled as a fire exit and will be used for planned/unplanned fire drills as a functioning fire exit route from the preschool. The old broken gate is securely tied and all staff and children are directed to use the other gate in the outdoor area as a functioning fire exit route. The new gates will be regularly checked and maintained fit for purpose.

Supporting documentation submitted

N/A

Summary Comment

Following a review of the written response by the inspector outlining a commitment given by the service manager on behalf of the registered provider, that all repair and maintenance works will be completed by 31 July 2025 with supporting evidence to follow, the requirement for Regulation 23 has been met and will be reviewed at the time of the next inspection.

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)

Current certification in relation to first aid response (FAR) was available for staff currently working in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in conspicuous positions in each pre-school room and were available and accessible to the staff members caring for the children at all times.

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)

Documentation was available with up-to-date recordings for monthly fire drills completed, the last fire drill was conducted 19 May 2025.

(b)

The firefighting equipment and smoke/fire detection alarm system was serviced 11 July 2024 and 15 April 2024 respectively.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed within the service.

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 children were observed being supervised at all times by the adults caring for them and included during activities indoors and outdoors, during snack time and with hand washing. One staff member remained with the children in the back lobby of the service while they had their end of year photograph taken by a photographer.