

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KK040
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kells Resource Centre Ltd.
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Kells Childcare Centre Ltd., Kells, Co. Kilkenny
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<b>Eircode:</b>	R95 VFV0
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Irene Browne
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	08/04/2025
	09/04/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<b>AM</b>	49	<b>PM</b>	35
		47		N/A

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
<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 full day care community service is located in the village of Kells Co Kilkenny. A preschool service is provided to children aged from 6 months to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 18:00 (including a sessional service from 09:30 to 12:30 for 38 weeks of the year). A school age service is also provided. The premises, a purpose-built childcare facility, consists of four preschool rooms; a baby room, toddler room, preschool one located downstairs and preschool two located upstairs. The service has an onsite kitchen and outdoor play areas to the rear and side of the service. The registered provider also operates a sessional service in the village. The children who attend that service may also attend this full day care service in the afternoon.

### Staffing

There are 18 staff employed in the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. All staff who were working directly with the children held an award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment  
Regulation 10 Policies and procedures  
Regulation 11 Staffing levels  
Regulation 15 Record of preschool child,  
Regulation 17 Information for parents,  
Regulation 19 Care and welfare of the child,  
Regulation 22 Food and Drink,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child,  
Regulation 25 First aid,  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety,  
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 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.

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the first day of inspection. The assistant manager was the deputising person in charge on the second day of the inspection. On reviewing the previous staff rosters it was clear there was a manager or deputy manager maintained in the service daily.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 18 staff employed in the service.

All written and required references were available on file for staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all 18 staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

(d)

Police vetting was available on file for one staff member who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for all staff working directly with preschool children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

(7)

The manager had ensured that all employees were appropriately supervised and provided with adequate information to carry out their roles in the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector were clear in their understanding of the policies and procedures in place in the service. For example, staff who spoke to the inspector were aware of the behaviour management policy. There was evidence of regular staff meetings and one to one meetings to support staff working in the service.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on the administration of medication, and the policy on the management of accidents and incidents.

### 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)(2)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children on both days of the inspection.

#### Day 1

At 10:45

There were 49 children in the care of 9 staff.

At 15:30

There were 35 children in the care of 5 staff.

#### Day 2

At 10:30

There were 47 children in the care of 10 staff.

There was also a chef employed to prepare all meals and snacks provided for the children.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of 10 forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 17 – Information for parents

*A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).*

### Compliance Information

There was information for parents who were proposing to enrol their child in the service. This information was sent by e-mail to parents. The copy was reviewed by the inspector. The service provided parents with information as required under regulation 17. The information booklet provided for parents contained an outline of the curriculum, the hours of operation, contact details and the facilities available within the service. There was also information included on the ethos and the day to day running of the service.

### 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

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The following observations were made on the first day of the inspection. Children were engaged in a variety of an activities during the inspection, including playing together in the outdoor areas with the support of staff, playing with water in the play room next to the baby room and having stories read while sitting on staff knees in the baby room.

Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example, children in the baby room were observed feeding themselves. They were supervised and given help when required. It was a particularly warm day staff who spoke to the inspector said parents were asked to ensure children had sunblock applied before they came into the service in the morning. Children also had their own individual bottles of sunblock which was reapplied by staff later in the day. Staff in the baby room were observed taking the initiative to shield the children from the sun by placing a floor mat against the railings to shield them while they were playing with water in the outdoor area.

The children in the baby room were observed. Staff were noted to be warm and sensitive in caring for the children. Parents had written sheets which outlined their preferred routine for their children who were attending the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable on the children's likes and dislikes. Staff spoke in soft and gentle tones and were prompt to pick up on cues for care given by the children. The children's artwork was displayed on the walls. Preschool 2 was noted to be well organised and laid out for the play and stimulation of the children in attendance. There were cubby holes to store their bags, there was original art work encouraging children to create their own easter egg.

The children enjoyed extended periods of time in the outdoor areas. Staff were observed initiating games and supporting children to enjoy playing outside. Staff were observed to be constantly engaged with the children in their care. There was a large sand pit which had wooden beams built into the edges of the pit. The beams allowed

the children to sit comfortably while they were digging. The pit was covered with a large umbrella which provided shade from the sun.

The materials and equipment available across all preschool rooms included a supply of Montessori equipment, arts and crafts materials and other open-ended materials. The play equipment in the service was organised and easily accessible to the children. The inspector observed that all the preschool rooms were developed with care and attention, for example the baby room had direct access to their own designated outdoor play area. This environment gave the children choice as they could easily walk in and out as they choose.

(1)(b)

The manager had ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. Staff in the baby room had displayed care plans for any child who needed specific attention. For example, care in relation to allergies individual children had. Children were encouraged to use the toilet independently and were given help to wash their hands. Nappy changing was observed and was in line with the service policy. Staff wore gloves and aprons and washed their hands and the babies' hands after nappy changing.

Staff were observed by the inspector always engaging with the children while they were playing in the outdoor play area. Some children were playing on their balance bikes, some children were observed having fun watching the tractors in the surrounding fields. The inspector observed that both sleep rooms were dimly lit and well ventilated. Child led sleep was observed in the baby room. Staff were prompt in responding to cues for sleep. Babies had their clothes removed and were placed in the cots in their nappies and vests. There were cot beds available for older children in the service if they required sleep. There were rest areas available in all the rooms for children to rest in if they wanted to.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy. All meals and snacks were supplied and cooked on the premises by the chef from the onsite kitchen. The main meal consisted of chicken curry and rice. Children were served extra portions when they requested additional helpings. The meals were served in the rooms with the staff helping children to wash their hands and set the tables. Water and milk were available to drink. On the afternoon of the inspection children were served a selection of sandwiches with a variety of fillings such as ham and cheese. There was a 3-week menu on display which parents could view when dropping and collection their children.

### 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

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was secure on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection. The outdoor areas in the service were safe, suitable and secure.

#### Infection Control

The service was clean. There were daily and weekly cleaning schedules maintained. The service had an infection control policy. Staff were attentive to children's personal hygiene during the day. The staff were observed to support the children in washing their hands before meals, after using the toilet and after messy play. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot pedal operated bins provided across the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector said the service also employed a cleaner on two evenings during the week to clean the service in addition to the childcare staff.

#### Safe Sleep

The service had two designated sleep rooms. Individual bed linen was available. Staff who spoke with the inspector were aware of safe sleep practices. Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable in the importance of adhering to safe sleep guidelines. For example, they were knowledgeable on how often a sleeping child is physically checked, recording the observations such as colour, position and breathing rate and temperature of the sleep room. Observations on the sleeping children's colour, position and breathing were carried out and recorded every 10 minutes. The sleep rooms were equipped with thermometers and air conditioning units to cool both rooms if required. Staff were vigilant in checking the required temperatures of the sleep rooms. The temperature of both sleep rooms was recorded at intervals during the inspection. The temperatures were maintained between 20°C and 21°C.

#### Administration of medication

The service had an administration of medication policy. The policy was reviewed by the inspector and was found to contain the required aspects for the safe administration of medication in a preschool setting. Previous records of medication that had been administered in the service were reviewed by the inspector. It was clearly documented; the consent was signed by the parents and the document of the administration procedure was verified and signed by two staff.

### 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)

There was a person trained in a first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending preschool service. On review of staff training records, evidence was found that there were 14 staff trained in a first aid responder course in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position to the staff on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool 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)

There was a record of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was carried out in March 2025.

(1)(b)

There was a record available to demonstrate the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm in the service. This maintenance was carried out in February 2025.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.