

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

U6TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY026
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Name of Service:	Moyvane Village Preschool
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Address of Service:	Moyvane National School, Moyvane, Listowel, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V31 T227
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anna Marie Flaherty
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	08/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co Kerry.
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Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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	N/A
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Description of service

This private sessional service operates from Moyvane National school. It is registered as providing sessional care for children between the ages of 2 years and 6 years. The service operates two sessional services from 09:00am to

12 mid-day and 12:30pm to 3:30pm Monday to Friday. The children attending the service have 2 designated outdoor play areas available and accessible to them each day.

Staffing

There were 4 adults attached to the service including the registered provider, employed to work directly with the children. There were 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme.

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. The inspections 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, 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) The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named deputy to deputise in her absence as required.

- (b) When the announced inspection commenced, the registered provider was on duty to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the 4 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) There were 8 references from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Not applicable, the references provided were from previous employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 4 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) There was Police vetting on file for 2 adults who resided outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for greater than six consecutive months.
- (4) All staff working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with copies of the relevant qualifications on file.

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) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.
- (3) There were 3 adults caring for 20 children aged between 3 years to 5 years attending the morning session on a sessional basis and there were 2 adults caring for 10 children attending the afternoon session on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

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

- The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their individual level of independence. This was evidenced for example when children were washing their hands prior to the mealtime, after playing in the outdoor area and after using the toilet.
- At the snack times observed on inspection, each of the children had enough time to eat and enjoy their food without being rushed in any way with the adults sitting with them at the tables.
- Children were facilitated to eat their food outside of the designated time as was observed during the morning session when a child wanted to eat some fruit.
- The children attending enjoyed free movement in the playroom and in the outdoor play area on the day.
- The staff present were observed to be kind and caring towards the children and they spoke to the children in low soft tones of voice.
- The staff demonstrated an understating of individual needs, for example children requiring additional support as they settled into the setting.
- The inspector observed the staff accompanied children promptly to use the toilets as soon as the children alerted them. The toilets were located outside the playroom.
- The staff reminded children of using toilet as observed for example prior to going to play outside.
- Hand washing took place prior to the snack time, after using the toilet and on return from playing in the outdoor area.
- There was a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap, disposable paper hand towels and pedal operated lidded bins in place at each of the 2 wash hand basins in the children's sanitary accommodation and at the sink in the playroom to facilitate effective hand washing to prevent the spread of infection.
- The tables were cleaned down prior to and after the mealtimes.

- There were child sized plastic aprons provided for the children’s messy play activities both indoors and outdoors.
- There was a photograph of each child over their coat/bag hook to facilitate children to easily identify their coat and bag independently as was evidenced on inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The service had a wide variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment available in the playroom and in the designated outdoor play areas for the children throughout the day.
- The furniture was child sized for example the child sized tables and chairs, the low-level child sized seating in the cosy corner.
- There was a selection of open shelving units throughout the spacious room where the materials and toys were organised and grouped to encourage children to use them independently.
- The equipment and materials facilitated all types of play and learning both indoors and outdoors.
- There were clearly defined interest areas in the playroom, the home corner, the shop, arts and crafts area, montessori materials, tuff trays with artificial grass and small animals on inspection.
- In the outdoor area used on inspection there were for example ride on toys, water and sand play, a playhouse and large blocks.

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 food for snack time was provided by the parents.
- The children sat at the low-level tables at the snack times.
- The food observed on inspection consisted of sandwiches, cereal, yogurts, and a variety of fruit.
- The perishable food items were stored in the fridge in the playroom.
- The perishable food items were placed in the fridge on the children's arrival to the service as observed at the afternoon session.
- The children had water to drink at the mealtimes and their drinks bottles were accessible to them during the session.
- The service had a stock of bottled drinking water.

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) It was evident from the staff rota that there was at least one staff member trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) available on the premises at all times. There were 3 staff with up to date FAR training and 1 staff member with up to date Paediatric first aid.
- (2)
- (a) The First aid box was stored up high, out of reach of children and clearly identified in the playroom.
- (b) The First aid box was suitably stocked for the number of children attending the service, it was available for staff to attend to the children if required.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was furnished to the inspector.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured
- the category of insurance cover for the service.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'26.