

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY060				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kilflynn Preschool and Afterschool Club				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Castletown, Kilflynn, Tralee, Co. Kerry				
<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 E091				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Deirdre Herbert				
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	01/10/2025				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>10</td> <td>PM</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	AM	10	PM	None
AM	10	PM	None		
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy				
<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>	N/A
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### Description of service

Kilflynn Preschool and Afterschool Club is a private early years service that provides education and care to children aged from 2 years to 6 years offering sessional care. The service is registered to operate 1 session between 08:40am and 12 mid-day. At the time of the inspection the children attending were aged between 2 years 9 months and 4 years.

The premise consists of one spacious playroom with the sanitary accommodation located within the playroom. The service has a spacious, fully enclosed outdoor play area available and accessible to the children.

### Staffing

There were 2 adults attached to the service including the registered provider who are employed to work directly with the children.

### 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 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 and the named deputy were on duty to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The registered provider informed the inspector that 2 adults were attached to the service. The recruitment records in relation to each of the 2 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) There were 4 references from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Not applicable as the references on file were from previous employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 2 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 1 adult who resided outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for greater than six consecutive months.
- (4) The adults 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..*

### 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 2 adults caring for 10 children aged between 2 years 11 months to 4 years attending the service on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.

## 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

(1) The registered provider had the following on the premise:-

(j) templates were on file to record any medication administered to a pre-school child. There were no records on file.

(k) A record book was available to record details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service. There were no entries recorded.

## 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

(1) (a)

#### Basic Needs: -

- The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their individual level of independence, for example removing the outdoor protective clothing on returning from playing outside.
- The service had pictures of the steps for hand washing displayed above the sinks in the bathroom and in the care room to support the children when washing their hands.

- The inspector observed children followed the handwashing steps when washing their hands after working with the play dough for example.
- The service encouraged an awareness of healthy habits in children for example the availability of a box of tissues within the reach of the children and encouraging hand washing after using the toilet.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help skills for example by the provision of individual coat hooks with their photographs over each in the care room which facilitated easy access and independence.
- The parents supplied the food consumed at the mealtime during the inspection.
- The children washed their hands prior to the mealtime with the adults supervising and available to provide assistance as was needed with hand drying.
- Each of the children had enough time to eat and enjoy their food without being rushed in any way.
- The atmosphere at the mealtime was relaxed and both adults sat with the children.
- The food observed included sandwiches, scones and a variety of fruit with water to drink.
- When finished eating the children independently placed their lunch bags on the allocated stand in the playroom.

### Supporting Relationships: -

- The adults were observed to be kind, caring and attentive towards the children they were caring for. They reminded children in respect of taking turns when playing and they comforted and re-assured children as needed.
- The inspector observed the adults supporting children to share toys with each other and to say “please” and “thank you”.
- The daily routine for the service consisted of visuals, illustrations and words displayed on the door of the low- level fridge.
- The daily routine display showed the children the sequence of the daily activities helping them to understand the order of the events, helping them what is happening “now” and what is happening “next”.
- Children took their turns moving the arrow on the daily routine display onto the next activity.
- The children were observed happily looking through photographs placed on the low-level table, taken of the activities the children participated in the service and a recent visit from the Garda.

- The adults encouraged the children to interact and to engage with a wide range of materials, activities and equipment in the playroom based on the children's own choices, interests and their age and stage of development.

### Physical and Material Environment: -

- The children moved about freely in the playroom.
- The materials and equipment in the playroom were readily visible and accessible to promote independent free access by the children at all times.
- The adults ensured that the children had opportunities to interact informally with one another as evidenced during the free play time and at snack time for example.
- The adults facilitated opportunities for small and large group activities and play as evidenced for example with tabletop activities, cutting and pasting, working with play dough made in the service and with building blocks.
- A spacious outdoor play area designated for the children attending was provided. There was grass and concrete foot paths underfoot. There was a mud kitchen, balls, ride on toys, and planting boxes for example provided in the area. The area was not used during the inspection.

### 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 premise was secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access in.
- The cleaning agents seen on inspection were stored on a high shelf in the playroom.
- The T.V screen in place in the playroom was securely mounted high up on the wall.
- The outdoor play area was fully enclosed with walls and gates and was secure.

##### Infection Control:

- 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 sinks in use in the service to facilitate effective hand washing to prevent the spread of infection.
- The tables were cleaned down prior to and after the mealtime and after the children had finished playing with the playdough.
- The inspector observed the adults reminding the children of the coughing etiquette.

- A box of tissues was accessible at children's reach in the playroom for nose wiping as needed.
- The adults were observed supervising and encouraging the children with hand washing. The adults checked the children's hands paying attention to adequate drying in between their fingers.

### Fire Safety:

- The records displayed in the service demonstrated the maintenance check on the fire alarm and the fire extinguishers was carried out on 5.9.'25.
- A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. There were nails exposed on a timber post in the outdoor play area posing a risk of injury to the children.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The nails have been removed from the timber post. The designated person in charge will have the responsibility for checking and risk assessing the outdoor area daily and take action as required.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Photographic evidence of the timber post without the nails.

### Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

## 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 ensured that there were and adult available at all times with first aid responder (FAR) training. The 2 adults in the service had in date FAR certification on file.

- (2)
- (a) The first aid box was stored in the care room within a high-level cupboard, out of reach of children.
- (b) The first aid box was suitably stocked for the number of children attending the service and available for staff to attend to the children if required.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities*

### Compliance Information

- (a) The premise visually appeared to be sound and stable.
- (e) There were 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin provided for the children's use. The second toilet was partitioned off with a secure door in place.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. Some areas of one timber gate in the outdoor play area were loose, with areas of wear and tear.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

1. The timber panels have been secured with nails; it is of sound structure. The designated person in charge will risk assess the outdoor area daily and take action if required.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic evidence of the timber panels secured.

### Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.