

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK077
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Name of Service:	Killeedy Preschool
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Address of Service:	Old Girls National School, Ashford, Ballagh, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V42 R529
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura McEnery
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	27/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, Estuary House, 2 nd Floor, Henry Street, Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan
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

Located in the rural village of Ashford, Co. Limerick, Kileedy Pre-school is a community-based preschool service operating out of the village's former old schoolhouse. The service provides a part time facility operating every Monday to Friday, from 8.30 am to 12.15 pm. The facility features a spacious, well-resourced classroom and an engaging, adventurous outdoor play area designed to inspire young learners

Staffing

The registered provider is the chairperson of the preschool committee. A designated person in charge is appointed to manage the day to day running of the school. There are 3 additional adults employed to work at the service. All staff who work at the school hold the required qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

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

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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, 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*

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(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 designated person in charge of operating the service was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, a designated person in charge was present and the staff attendance records indicated a person in charge was always available on the premises.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references from past employers were available for all staff at the facility.

(b) All references were from either past employers or from a reputable source such as a former school or college attended.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for each staff member. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting required from another state was available for 1 staff member at the service.

(4) All staff working at the preschool had the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education. Staff engaged in continuous education with members of staff having completed the LINC training, a programme designed to enhance the inclusion of all children in Early Learning and Care settings.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that at all times an adequate number of adults were working directly with the preschool children attending the service. Evidence of this was noted in the services attendance records.

(2) The service operates each day Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 12.15pm. On the day of the inspection there were 23 preschool children present with 4 staff members. The adult child ratio met the requirements of Regulation 11.

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 service followed a healthy eating policy, where parents provided the children with a healthy mid-morning snack. All perishable foods were kept in a refrigerator, and children could access their drinks easily throughout the day, whether they were playing indoors or outside.

The toilets were located next to the preschool room for unrestricted access. To maintain high hygiene standards, hot water, liquid soap, and paper towels were provided, with staff available to help children as needed. Tissues and wipes were located within easy reach, and all waste was hygienically disposed of in lidded, foot-pedal bins.

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Internally to create a more varied environment, the facility was designed with several distinct, well-equipped interest areas for both play and learning. This included a dedicated rest zone equipped with soft couches, bean bags, cushions, and sensory lamps, offering a quiet space for relaxation away from active play.

The outdoor area was extensively resourced to encourage physical activity, including spaces for climbing, running, ball games, and cycling, as well as gardening and digging. It was a space for adventure and nature-based exploration, with new sheltered sections ensuring children could enjoy the outdoors in any weather. Continuous community fundraising helps regularly upgrade and maintain all areas of the service.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The service operated from 1 large playroom. The room was subdivided into many play areas and low-level shelving units helped separate and identify each of the play stations. Low level tables and chairs were used for many tabletop activities and for dining at mealtimes. Open shelving units housed a diverse selection of play materials, allowing children to independently select and access equipment with ease. The library area provided a comfortable space for children to relax and read a book. The home corner was easily recognisable, featuring a cohesive collection of play cookers, utensils, food props, dolls, and prams. Additionally, dedicated messy play areas offered children easy access to a wide variety of arts and crafts materials. Educational posters were exhibited on many walls of the room with samples of children's artwork also displayed throughout the facility. Children spent long periods each day in the outdoor areas. The school yard and playground provided ample space for using ride-on trikes, bikes, and scooters. Climbing equipment was safely secured, with shock-absorbent rubber matting covering all areas to minimise the risk of injury to children. Mud kitchens offered an imaginative play space outdoors, while a timber fence surrounding the play area featured various interactive attachments. A garden area was accessible at the rear of the school, and numerous sheltered spaces housed mud kitchens and lots of natural play materials provided challenging play opportunities. Additionally, sanitary facilities were recently added to the outdoor play garden.

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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:

All internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing any unsafe areas. All external doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the area unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access to the building. All emergency exits and fire doors were unobstructed. The toys and play equipment used in the service were safe for the age group using them, were in good condition, and were free from any exposed sharp edges. All waste was inaccessible but indoors and outdoors with foot, pedal operated, lidded bins located throughout the premises. All detergents and cleaning agents were safely stored out of reach of the children. The outdoor area was fenced, and gates were secured to prevent the preschool child gaining unsupervised access to any roadway and to prevent any unauthorised access to the garden or external play area. No hazards were noted in the outdoor space and regular risk assessments were carried out to ensure the safety of the children at all times.

Infection Control:

Infection control was managed with a cleaning schedule that ensured a high standard of operational hygiene across all areas of the premises. All surfaces, play materials, and high-touch points were sanitised regularly to maintain a safe environment. Handwashing was consistently encouraged among the children, supported by the provision of adequate facilities both indoors and in the outdoor play areas. These accessible stations included hot water, liquid soap, and paper towels, allowing for continuous hygiene practices throughout the day. Furthermore, the use of foot-pedal operated bins and the availability of tissues and wipes ensured that waste was handled appropriately to minimise the risk of cross-contamination.

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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 were 3 staff members working at the service that had the required first aid responder training completed. All certificates were in date.

(2)(a) A first aid box stocked with all the necessary materials was stored in an easily accessible location in the preschool.

(b) The first aid box was at all times available to the children both when indoors and outdoors at the 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) Records were available to show that fire drills were carried out monthly. The most recent fire drill took place on the 21st of March 2026.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises with the most recent service having been completed in March 2026.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a current insurance certificate which outlined that adequate insurance was available for 29 preschool children to attend the service. The insurance cover commenced on the 28th of March 2025 and expired on the 27th of March 2026.