

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK134		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Noreen Barry Playschool		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Community Centre New Street Abbeyfeale Co. Limerick		
<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 KP84		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Noreen Barry		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	02/09/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	8	PM No.
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Ryan		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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		

### Description of service

This private sessional service was established in 1969. It operates a morning session from 09:30 – 12:30 hours Monday – Friday for 38 weeks a year. The service offers a play-based curriculum and is operated from a community hall where the children have access to two preschool rooms, a hall and a sanitary accommodation area.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service each day and holds a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6. One additional staff member holds QQI level 6 qualification. The adults have engaged in on-going professional development including first aid training.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23,25,26 and 28.

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 was the person in charge on the day of the inspection and a named person to deputise as required was also available.

(b) The registered provider was on the premises when the inspector arrived at the service and staff rosters indicated that the designated person in charge or deputy was available on the premises at all times.

(2)(a) Two written references from past employers were available for both staff members. The registered provider had validated all references that were on file.

(b) Written and verified references from sources other than past employers were not required as staff had references from previous employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for both staff members. One Garda vetting disclosure for one staff member present on the day of the inspection were not dated within the last three years as per the regulatory notice EYI-RN12.3 renewal of Garda vetting published by the inspectorate in September 2023. Please refer to Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of a child for further details.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The two staff working directly with the children who attended the service held awards in Early Childhood Care at level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(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

(2) There were 8 pre-school children aged 3 – 5 years being supervised by 2 staff at the time of the inspection. The adult/child ratio on the day of the inspection was greater than the minimum requirements of 1:11.

### 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

##### **(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS:**

The children brought their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included: sandwiches, yogurts, a selection of fruit and drinks of water. Drinking water was available throughout the session if a child needed a drink. The children sat together around the tables and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food. Staff were observed to sit with the children and have their own snack at the same time. Staff cleaned the tables before snacks were eaten.

All of the children were toilet trained and toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it. The children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. A box of tissues was accessible to the children and they were encouraged to use a tissue to clean their noses if required. The children could rest and relax as desired throughout the morning in the library area on the adult sized armchair, cushions and on floor mats. The children enjoyed freedom of movement within the pre-school room.

The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. The adults modelled positive behaviour for the children and the children were praised for their good behaviour.

##### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

This sessional service was operated from two rooms in a community hall in a rural town setting. Children also had access to a hall and a sanitary accommodation area. The pre-school rooms were equipped with open shelving units where children could access equipment and materials independently. Shelving units were also used effectively as room dividers to create play spaces, such as the library/quiet area, home corner construction area, sand play area, small world area and arts and crafts area and tabletop activities area. There was a plentiful supply of play props available to support sensorial play.

Open boxes of toys were placed on the floor, were labelled and had pictures on them to demonstrate what they contained which made it easy for children to find play equipment and also to replace it. The walls of the pre-school room were decorated with posters and the children's artwork. Children went to the hall to play and run about which supported their gross motor development.

### 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. Garda Vetting documentation for one staff member present on the day of the inspection were not dated with in the last three years as per the regulatory notice EYI-RN12.3 renewal of Garda vetting published by the inspectorate in September 2023 and effective from 01/01/2024. This posed a potential risk to the safety and wellbeing of children in the service.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

Garda vetting documentation for the one staff member present on the day of the inspection has been updated.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

Details in relation to the updated garda vetting documentation has been checked on the Tusla garda vetting system.

#### Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet with the regulatory requirements of regulation 23.

### 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) Two staff held current certification in first aid responder for children.
- (2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child.

### 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) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place in September 2025.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in June 2025. A record of the maintenance of the smoke alarms in the premises indicated that they were serviced in December 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the entrance hallway.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available for the preschool service and had an expiry date of 27/03/2026.