

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK143
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Name of Service:	Presentation Pre-School
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Address of Service:	Presentation Primary School, Sexton Street, Limerick, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 P028
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marie Meskell Reidy
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	22/10/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	9
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
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Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne
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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	Not applicable
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Description of service

This community-based service provides sessional and part – time care from 09:00 – 15:30 hours, Monday – Friday for 38 weeks of the year for children aged 3 – 6 years, including the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme. The service is operated from a designated modular unit on the grounds of the local primary school which is located in the centre of Limerick city.

The service comprises of the two pre-school rooms, front entrance area, sanitary accommodation area and an outdoor play area to the front of the premises.

Staffing

There is a designated person in charge and nine staff members employed to work directly with the children each day. The registered provider for the service is the deputy school principal of the Presentation Primary School.

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 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*
- (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 had appointed a designated person in charge. There was a named person who could deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) There were written references available in respect of the 10 staff members employed at the service, with recorded validations for each reference.
- (a) There were 13 validated references on file from past employers.
- (b) There were 7 validated references on file from other sources where 2 past employers references were not available.
- (3) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available in respect of each staff member working at the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as none of the staff had lived outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) Each staff member held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 written policies and procedures available in the service which the person in charge and staff members were currently in the process of updating.

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 service operates two morning sessions starting at 9.00am and finishing at 12.00pm and an afternoon session starting at 12:30 and finishing at 15:30. The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service.

(2) There were 15 preschool children with 4 adults attending the morning session in Group A and 16 preschool children with 4 adults attending the morning session in Group B. In the afternoon there were 9 preschool children with two adults attending the session.

The person in charge was available if required to assist in the preschool rooms.

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:

A healthy eating policy was implemented within the service, ensuring children had nutritious meals and snacks in preschool each day. Perishable foods were appropriately stored in a refrigerator, and drinking water remained accessible to children at all times. At break times, staff members sat with children at the table, fostering mealtimes as positive social experiences.

Most of the preschool children were able to use the toilets independently with assistance given where it was required. These were located adjacent to the preschool rooms. The children who required additional assistance with toileting the staff were observed giving one to one attention and responded to their communication cues - verbally and nonverbal. Children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times during the sessions such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing took place using hot water, liquid soap and paper towels. The provision of tissues and wipes contributed to hygiene, with waste disposed of safely in foot pedal-operated, lidded bins.

Protective clothing was available for children during messy play and outdoor activities, particularly in wet weather conditions. Outdoor play was incorporated daily into the programme at the service.

A designated relaxation area was available in each room, located close to the library corner to accommodate children who required rest or wished to retreat from active play. This space was equipped with child size couches, soft cushions and floor mats to enhance comfort within the reading area.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that all children were checked in and out of the service each day by an employee. The digital attendance records accurately recorded the checking in and out of each child.

(3)(a) No persons could enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee other than the following:

(i) A pre-school child.

- (ii) A person dropping or collecting a child.
- (iii) An employee.
- (iv) An unpaid worker.
- (b) A daily record in writing was kept of the entry on the premises of any such person on the visitors' book.

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 four staff members working at the service who had completed first aid responder training. The certificates were in date up to July 2027.
- (2)(a) A well-equipped first aid box was stored in an easily accessible location within each preschool room.
- (b) The first aid boxes were available to children attending 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.

(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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out at the service were available to view on the day of inspection. The most recent fire drills were carried out on the 15th of October 2025 for the morning and afternoon sessions.

(b) All fire extinguishers were wall mounted and were last serviced in April 2025. There were written records maintained of the number, type and service history of smoke alarms in the service. The most recent service took place on the 2nd of September 2025.

(4) A fire action notice was displayed in the main entrance area of the service.

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,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(a) The premises was a prefabricated unit erected in 2005 and there were no indications of obvious defects noted on inspection.

(b) The premises appeared safe and secured. Over the past two years additional work has been carried on the unit with a new front door and new windows installed. There was a keypad security system at the front door and gates to the side entrance and the enclosed outdoor areas remained closed throughout the sessions. The outdoor area was well secured with fencing preventing any unauthorised access to or exit from this area of the service.

(c) All areas were well lit by natural light and by artificial light when needed. There was no evidence of mould, mildew, stale smells, stuffiness or condensation. A new heating system was installed since the last inspection in 2023.

(d) The areas outside were maintained and routine cleaning schedules were in place for all internal and external areas.

(e) There were an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available to the preschool children in attendance at the service. The staff have access to the bathroom facilities in the school premises.