

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LM022
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kinderkare Day Nurseries
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Lisnagot, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
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<b>Eircode:</b>	N41 Y225
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Teresa Singleton
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	24/06/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	13
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Services, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo. F91 XC84
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Farrell
<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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Kinderkare Day Nurseries is a privately owned and operated service in Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim. The service is registered to operate sessional services from 8:50 to 11:50 hours in the morning and from 12:00 hours to 15:00 hours in the afternoon. The service is also registered to provide school aged services. There is a main building where the service's office and school aged services are located. The preschool service is operated from a second building adjacent to the main building which has a large playroom and sanitary facilities. There is a large, well-developed outdoor play area with outdoor play equipment located to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

There are five staff working in the service and an adult student was also present on student placement in the service at the time of the inspection.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under sections of regulations 9, 11, 19, 25, 27 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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.*

*(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) There was a named designated person in charge and a named person to deputise in her absence in the service.
  - (b) Both the designated person in charge and deputy were present in the service during the inspection. It was confirmed through discussion with staff and review of rosters that either the designated person in charge or the deputy were present during service hours.
- (2) It was confirmed by discussion with the designated person in charge and review of rosters that there were six adults in the service including a student on placement at the time of the inspection. The vetting files for the six adults were reviewed and the following required documents were available:
- (a) Two written validated references from past employers particularly their most recent employer for five adults. One written validated reference from their past employer for one adult.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all six adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting for staff members every three years.
  - (d) International police vetting was available for three adults who had lived outside of the country for more than six months as adults.
- (4) Evidence of qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care at QQI level 5 or higher or equivalent qualifications where available for all five adults who worked directly with the children.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) A second written, validated reference from a past employer was required for one adult who had previous employments according to the vetting information on file in the service.

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

The service advised in writing that:

(2)(a)

### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The staff member has been requested to provide a reference from a former employer.

Each new staff member will be requested to provide two valid references from previous employment. Staff files will be checked annually to avoid any future non-compliance in relation to the documentation required.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Copy of reference.

### **Summary Comment**

The actions and evidence submitted to the Inspectorate has been reviewed and deemed to have addressed the non-compliance found under the regulation on inspection.

## 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) It was observed that there were adequate numbers of adults provided to work with the children in the service during the inspection. During the morning, 3 adults worked directly with 20 children and 4 adults worked directly with 13 children in the afternoon. The designated person in charge was also available during both sessions to provide cover and assistance as needed.
- (3) The minimum ratios of adults to children were found to be complied with during the inspection. 3 adults were provided to care for 20 children in the morning session and 4 adults cared for 13 children in the afternoon session.

### 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)

The children and adults were engaged in 'circle time' discussions on the inspector's entry to the playroom. The children were sitting on small mats on a rug chatting with the staff. Following 'circle time' the children spent time playing with a wide range of toys and play equipment that they chose from the low-level accessible storage systems in the playroom. Some play activities included using construction and linking toys to make shapes and imaginative play with dolls and furniture at a dolls house. A group of children enjoyed messy play with playdough and cutters/rollers supervised by an adult at a large plastic activity table. Some children played with toy cars at a garage trying to see how fast a car could travel. Other children coloured pictures at a table with another adult. The layout of the playroom with areas of interest such as the home area supported child-led play with the children choosing their preferred play activities and the adults supporting and engaging with the children while supervising them. Following the morning session snack-time, the children were encouraged to choose a book from the library area and sit looking at them. The children were observed to talk about their chosen book with the adults and show them pictures in the books. A rest area with soft furnishings known as the 'calm corner' was available for the children to rest in next to the library area. In the afternoon session some of children were observed to chose to play with items from the large selection of tabletop activities displayed in open storage systems.

The children's behaviour was managed by the staff in a positive way with positive role modelling from the adults who were calm and warm in their interactions with the children. The service's daily routine was displayed in picture form on one of the walls and was followed on the day creating a sense of predictability and stability for the children. The children were supported and encouraged by the adults to be as independent as possible for example helping to tidy up after eating and playing and putting on their own coats before playing outdoors. A bee-themed birthday wall contained the names and dates of birth of the children adding to a sense of belonging in the service.

The adults welcomed the parents warmly when they arrived at the service to drop off and collect children during the inspection. The service used a variety of methods to communicate with parents/guardians including

an electronic application system in addition to verbal communication and monthly newsletters. The monthly newsletters were displayed on the service's main entrance door and the adults informed the inspector that it was also sent to parents/guardians through the electronic application system.

The staff used different methods to support transitioning from one activity to another including a bell and coloured sand timers. The service had held a graduation ceremony in the service the previous week for the children some of whom were transitioning from the service to primary school. Artbooks containing the children's artwork were compiled by the adults each term and given to the children and their parents/guardians.

The service provided the snack for the children and during the morning session it was observed to be a healthy selection of chopped vegetables and fruit with crackers also provided. The children always had access to water during the sessions. Plastic plates were provided for the children to eat from and the children sat in groups at tables when eating chatting to each other making the snack time a sociable experience for them.

The children used the toilets by themselves were possible when they felt that they needed to. Staff were observed to prompt children to make sure that they washed and dried their hands properly after using the toilet, playing outdoors and before and after eating food.

The children were observed to spend time playing outdoors in the large well developed outdoor area. Some of the children played on ride on toys, others used the swings and climbing systems supervised by the adults. A number of children had fun playing games in the large wooden 'Garda', 'Shop' and 'Post Office' structures provided.

### 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) Three of the adults held First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates valid until dates in February 2026.
- (2)
  - (a) There was a first aid box with adequate amounts of supplies for the numbers of children attending the service. The first aid box was stored in a high cupboard in the playroom clearly labelled and easily located.

(b) The first aid equipment was always available to the children should it be needed.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

The staff were observed to supervise the children at all times during the inspection primarily by sight. The children however were facilitated to use the toilet alone where possible with the adults within earshot should help be needed. At mealtimes the adults supervised the children closely observing them eating. When playing outdoors during the morning session, the staff were observed by the inspector to move around the large outdoor space keeping the children in view.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service had insurance in place to cover a maximum of 22 children per session at any one time with an expiry date of the 27 March 2026.