

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LM038
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tullaghan Community Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Carberry Coast, Tullaghan, Co. Leitrim
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<b>Eircode:</b>	F91 NX38
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Edel Gavigan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	8 November 2022
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	11	PM	2
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S Mc Kenna
<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

Tullaghan Community Preschool is a not-for-profit part time early years service. The service is registered to cater for children aged 3 to 6 years, operating from 9:30am to 1:30pm five days per week, 38 weeks per year.

The service operates from a converted building in Tullaghan on the Leitrim/Donegal border on the outskirts of Bundoran town. There is one large playroom, a kitchen, an office, a store room and adult and child sanitary accommodation.

A designated outdoor play area is available to the rear of the building. School aged childcare is also provided.

### Staffing

There are a total of four adults employed within the service, all of whom work directly with the children.

Three staff that are employed to work directly with the children hold the required Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) to a minimum Level 5 or above in Early Childhood Care and Education. One adult is employed in a supernumerary capacity. The registered provider does not work in the service.

### 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.

## Additional Information

The preschool service was found to be operating outside of their registration status upon inspection. The service is registered to cater for children aged 3 to 6 years of age. Upon inspection one child aged 2 years 8 months was in attendance. A change of circumstances form is required to be submitted to the Tusla registration office.

## 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 II - Registration and Register

#### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

The preschool service was found to be operating outside of their registration status upon inspection. The service is registered to cater for children aged 3 to 6 years of age. Upon inspection one child aged 2 years 8 months was in attendance. A change of circumstances form is required to be submitted to the Tusla registration office.

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

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

A change of circumstance form was submitted to Tusla on 10 November 2022 to change the children's age range from 3 - 6 years to 2yrs 8 months – 6 yrs. Approval for this change was received from Tusla on 20 November 2022. It is proposed not to enrol any children under the age of 2 years 8 months, in line with the preschool scheme, however, should any of the services circumstances change we will make changes with Tusla prior to implementation.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

A copy of the change in circumstances email submitted to tusla, and a copy of the receipt of approval for change to age ranges catered for.

#### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions along with the evidence submitted pertaining to the non compliance found upon inspection under regulation 8 has been reviewed by the inspector and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

### 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 service had a named designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)

A sample of the staff attendance records reviewed found that the designated person in charge or deputy was available at all times when the service was in operation.

(2)

The staff files for one adult had been reviewed on the services most recent inspection, therefore has not been reviewed upon this inspection.

Of the three new adults employed, the staff files were reviewed, and the following were available or not required:

(a) (b)

Two written validated references from a past employer for two adults.

One written validated reference from a past employer for one adult.

One written validated references from a reputable source for one adult.

(c)

Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for three adults.

(d)

International police vetting was not required for the three adults, their employment records available for review demonstrated that they had not resided outside of the State for a period greater than six months as an adult.

(4)

Evidence of the completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 and Level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework was available for two adults.

## 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

### Compliance Information

(1)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children during the inspection.

(2)

There were 11 children in total attending the service being supervised by 3 adults.

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times throughout the inspection.

(8)

A review of the staff attendance records, demonstrated that there were at least 2 adults on the premises at all times during the operation of the part time service.

### 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

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs of Infants and Children

Food consumed by the children while attending the preschool is provided by the preschool service. Morning snack was served to the children at 11:15am, with lunch provided to children who attend on a part time basis at 1pm. Drinking water is available to children throughout the preschool session. The adults were observed to sit with the children during meal times, using it as an opportunity to engage in conversations led by the children. Older children were encouraged to be independent where possible in using the toilet by themselves. Where younger children required assistance, this was provided by the adults. Younger children in nappies were changed on a regular basis and more frequently if required.

Aprons were available for use for messy play activities, and appropriate clothing was available for outdoor play in inclement weather. Facial tissues were provided at child's height throughout the preschool room, with adults seen to encourage children to use them when needed.

Facilities were provided where children could avail of rest times on soft wipeable seating, or a cosy armchair in a quieter area of the play room if required.

There were no disagreements observed between the children. The adults encouraged the children's participation in circle time for goldilocks and the three bears role play activity, but also allowed children to choose if they wished to take part or not. During this time some children were seen to engage in play areas of their choice within the preschool room.

##### Supporting relationships around Children

The children were encouraged and supported to interact positively with other children. Positive language and interactions were observed between the adults and children, and in communication between the staff team. Transitions were smooth with little to no interruptions to children's play. A five-minute hand was displayed by a child when certain activities were coming to an end such as free play, allowing children to understand that they will soon be getting ready for what comes next in their daily routine. A photographic routine was displayed on the wall for the children's viewing.

A key person system is in place with each adult having eight key children for this preschool year.

Children contribute to the curriculum planning and activities through choosing the areas and activities they wish to take part in on a daily basis. A recall session takes place where the adults and children discuss what the children had planned to do that day, and how the activities went for them.

Communication with parents is face to face at drop off and collection times, with text messages used as reminders for special occasions or events.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The indoor play environment is bright, spacious and welcoming. Displays of children’s creative work, family tree, key person displays, child friendly posters were presented on the walls within the preschool service. Tables and chairs were suitable for the children’s age and stage of development of the children in attendance. The equipment and materials available to the children were placed on low level, open shelving which was easily accessible to the children. There was a sufficient quantity of play items for the number of children in attendance, with extra resources and play equipment available in additional storage areas.

The designated play areas available to the children were divided into specific play areas by the strategic placement of furniture and shelving units. A well-resourced home corner with various play materials, dolls, prams and dress up and a construction area allowed for imaginary play opportunities. Children were observed to “make tea” in the kitchen for the adults on the day of the inspection. A carpeted area which included toys such as a train set, small world toys, cars and blocks provided a designated area for children to engage in floor play. This area also doubled up as the circle time area with a board displaying weather, days of the week and items for discussion with the children at circle time. A second carpet area with play areas to include a hairdressers with suitable play materials and an office with toy computers and phones for children’s use was next to a book corner in a quiet corner of the play room.

A creative area with opportunities to draw and paint were accessible to the children, with some children observed to colour their own pictures and place them into their own individual labelled boxes to take home with them. A large chalkboard on a wall, a jigsaw table top area, sensory items to include leaves and a hedgehog hibernation box were some of the additional materials and resources available in the preschool room.

The outdoor area was enclosed by a mixture of concrete walls and wooden fencing with ground surfacing of concrete paths, two gravel areas and a grassed play area.

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The outdoor area contained a play house, a seesaw, slides, a low-level plastic climbing activity centre, tyres, a play kitchen with pots and pans, planted trees, a wooden car and boat, a low-level balance beam and seating for adults and children. A storage shed inaccessible to the children contained additional outdoor play resources.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

Healthy eating was promoted within the preschool service, which included a variety of healthy and nutritious food items. The weekly menu which detailed the snacks offered to children, demonstrated that a variety of suitable, nutritious and varied food items were provided.

Morning snack was served to children at 11:15am which included a choice of cereal and a selection of fruit with drinks of water. An additional snack provided to children who attend on a part time basis at 1pm consisted of a choice of yogurts and fruit. Portion sizes were suitable for the children's age, with additional portions available if requested by the children. Food items are available in the service for children who may be hungry and require food outside the set snack times. Drinking water is available to children throughout the preschool session.

Appropriate cutlery, plates and cups suitable for the children's age and stage of development were available.

## 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:

Upon the inspectors arrival the entrance door was secured to prevent unauthorised access or any child leaving the service unsupervised. Fire doors remained free from obstruction during the inspection. The floor covering was maintained in a good condition. No trailing cables were observed within the reach of children.

Storage areas were inaccessible to the children, with cleaning products observed to be stored out of the reach of children. The play materials used by the children were observed to be in in good condition.

##### Infection Control:

Pedal operated bins, warm running water, paper towels, soap and child friendly posters were in place at each wash hand basin. Handwashing was observed to take place after children used the toilet.

The preschool service was presented in a clean and hygienic manner. Cleaning schedules were on display, completed and up to date.

##### Safe Sleep:

The person in charge advised the inspector that children in attendance do not avail of a sleep during the day. Soft wipeable sofas are available for children to rest on during the preschool session, however, should a child require a sleep throughout the preschool session a low-level child sized bed with suitable bedding is available for their use.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(c) kept adequately ventilated*

#### Compliance Information

New openable windows to the front of the building had been installed since the services last inspection, allowing adequate ventilation to the preschool room. The preschool room was maintained within the required temperatures of 18°C - 22°C during the inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(c) The mechanical ventilation in the children's sanitary accommodation area was not in working order on the day of inspection.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The electrician was contacted, and the mechanical ventilation was fixed within two days of the inspection. The staff will check that the ventilation is working on a weekly basis.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of invoice for he works to mend the mechanical ventilation.

Evidence that checking of the ventilation units has been added to the weekly bathroom cleaning schedules.

#### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions along with the evidence submitted pertaining to the non compliance found upon inspection under regulation 29 (c) has been reviewed by the inspector and regulatory compliance has been achieved.