

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015LS039

**Name of Service:** Iosa Linn

**Address of Service:** Community Centre, Rath, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois

**Eircode:** R32 N2N0

**Name of Registered Provider:** Colette Behan

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 14/10/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	21	PM	NA
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**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Early Years Inspectorate  
Child and Family Agency  
Primary Care Centre  
Church Avenue  
Tullamore  
Co Offaly

**Inspection undertaken by:** R Flynn

**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).

**Conditions if applicable** Not applicable.

### Description of service

Iosa Linn is a privately operated preschool service located in a community hall in the rural village of Rath, Co Laois. The early years' service provides sessional care and education to children aged 2-6 years. Iosa Linn operates from Monday to Friday from 09.00am to 12.30pm. The premises consists of two playrooms, a hall and a small kitchen/storage area. An enclosed outdoor play area is located at the back and side of the service.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs five adults to work in the service. The registered provider works directly with the children and facilitated the inspection on 14 October. There were five adults present on the day of inspection; this included the registered provider, and four childcare staff.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under,

- Regulation 9 (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1),(3) Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) – Health, welfare and development of child.

- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety.
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.

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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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

(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 designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)

The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Six staff files including the registered providers were reviewed and the following was noted:

(a)

Three written validated references were available from a previous employer and

(b)

Six written validated references were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for six staff. In regard to the six staff members, the service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4)  
Six employed childcare staff members working directly with the pre-school children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education Level 5 to Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed to be the equivalent.

## Non-Compliance Information

(9)  
(2) (a)  
One written reference from a previous employer was not validated in respect of one staff member employed in the service.  
One written validated reference was not available in respect of one staff member.  
(2) (b)  
One written reference from a reputable source was not validated in respect of one staff member employed in the service.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a) (b)  
Outstanding written references were obtained and validated.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of validated references received.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 has been addressed.

### 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)  
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the preschool children on the day of inspection.
- (3)  
The ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of the inspection.  
There were six children aged between 2 years and 7 months and 4 years being supervised directly by two adults in Preschool room 1.  
There were fifteen children aged between 3-4 and a half years being supervised directly by three adults in Preschool room 2.

### 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

Children were observed eating a packed lunch provided by their parents. Lunches consisted of a variety of sandwiches, yoghurts, rice cakes, brioche and fruit. Staff sat with the children during snack times and engaged in conversation. Children's drinks were readily available in their lunch bags. The children sat together at low level tables while eating and engaging in conversation with each other. Children were not rushed while eating.

Regular hand washing was observed throughout the morning as children washed their hands before their snack, after toileting and as needed. Self-toileting was supported, and children were supervised as necessary.

### Supporting relationships

Staff members were observed to be warm, kind and respectful towards the children in their care. Children were spoken to using their first names, appropriate eye contact was made, and soft vocal tones were used during interactions. Staff were observed to be affectionate and give hugs when children approached the staff for comfort. The service maintained a craft book with children's artwork and activities which are provided to parents at the end of the year.

A family wall had photographs of the children and their families positioned at child's eye level. This helped the children feel connected to home. Child friendly pictures of the day's routine were positioned at child's level on the wall. This supported the children to feel secure and independent. A community notice board was on display and had pictures of various roles in the children's local community such as the Gardai, the local GAA team and the national school.

The staff advised the inspector that information and updates are provided to parents at drop off and collection times. Photographs, children's learning and messages are shared via an online messaging application.

### Physical and material environment

The children were observed engaged, active and involved throughout the session as they chose between activities. Toys and play equipment were positioned at an accessible level on open wall mounted shelving which nurtured independence and facilitated choice. Areas which promoted role play were available such as a dress up area with a variety of costumes and toy kitchen areas.

Children had the opportunity to take the lead and exercise choice in relation to their engagement in activities. Children were observed to freely select activities such as puzzles, of their choice from the shelves. A staff member was at each table engaging with the children partaking in tabletop activities and talking about what the children were creating. Gross motor development was supported with outdoor climbing equipment, ride on trikes and tractors, a rocking horse and a bouncy peanut ball.

Children were observed engaged in art and craft activities. Children sat on the floor and created a group picture together.

A range of books were available in the reading area of the preschool rooms. Children sat on low level chairs in a circle and staff read a story to the children. The children and staff engaged in a discussion regarding the book.

Children availed of outdoor play during the morning session. The children were assisted to put on their coats to go outside. Children enjoyed playing on the swings, in the playhouse and on the see saw. The inspector observed the children running and engaging in play together.

### 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:

The entrance door to the pre-school was securely locked and controlled by staff to prevent children exiting the pre-school unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access. A bell at the entrance door alerted staff to any visitors.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. Cleaning products were stored in the kitchen, out of reach of the children.

The outdoor oil tank was securely surrounded by fencing and inaccessible to the children.

##### Infection Control:

Liquid soap and warm water were available for hand washing. The children were supported to wash their hands before snack time and after using the bathroom. Pedal bins were available in the sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste. Mechanical ventilation was in place in the sanitary accommodation as well as openable windows. The care rooms were well-ventilated with openable windows.

##### Administration of Medication:

Medication was not required to be administered to any child on the day of inspection. Anti febrile medication was stored safely out of reach of children.

##### Fire Safety:

The designated fire exits were observed to be unobstructed throughout the inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. The paper hand towel dispensers in the sanitary accommodation were not in use. Staff were observed taking paper towels from a roll placed on the windowsill of the sanitary accommodation and handing paper towels to the children after hand washing. This posed a potential risk of cross contamination. It is

acknowledged that the registered provider explained that they are waiting for a company to come to replace the dispensers with new ones.

2. Foot operated pedal bins were not available in the preschool rooms for the hygienic disposal of waste such as tissues.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Infection Control:

1. New paper hand towel dispensers have been installed and stocked with paper hand towels. The service will ensure that the paper hand towel dispensers are working at all times.
2. Pedal bins have been placed in the care rooms.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### Infection Control:

Photograph of installed paper hand towel dispenser and pedal bins received.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 has been addressed.

## 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)

One staff member was qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and was available on the premises during the operational hours of the service on 14 October 2025.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was located in the service.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the pre-school 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 written record for the completed fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 06 October 2025.

(b)

The number, type and maintenance record of the smoke alarms on the premises was available. The fire alarms were serviced on 01 September 2025.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire were positioned at doorways throughout the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1) (b)

Firefighting equipment had not been serviced within the required timeframe. The last recorded record of maintenance was dated September 2024.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (b) The company that maintains the fire equipment had been contacted within the week timeframe that they were due out (September 2025). Maintenance checks were conducted on the fire equipment in October 2025. The company that service the equipment usually do so automatically every year, in future the service will notify them at least 4 weeks in advance of the certificate being out of date.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

Fire safety maintenance record was received by the inspectorate.

## **Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive action taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 has been addressed.

## **Part VI - Safety**

### **Regulation 28 - Insurance**

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

## **Compliance Information**

There was evidence of current insurance cover for thirty-six children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27 March 2026.