

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LS060
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	O'Moore Place Childcare
-------------------------	-------------------------

Address of Service:	Aras Eoghain O'Moore Place, O'Moore Place, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	R32 DP80
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Lydon
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

Date of Inspection:	03/10/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla, Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co Offaly R35 K1W4
---	--

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

O'Moore Place Childcare is a community childcare service in the town of Portlaoise, Co. Laois. The service offers part time and sessional care to children between the age of 2-6 years. The premises is a standalone single storey community building located in a residential area. The service offers part time care from 08.30-12.15pm and a sessional service from 09:00am – 12:00pm, Monday to Friday.

Two preschool rooms, a quiet/sensory room, a kitchen, two storerooms and two offices are provided on the premises. A large secure outdoor play area is located to the rear and the side of the building. Parking and set down is available in the premises designated carpark to the front of the building. .

Staffing

The registered provider employs fifteen adults to work in the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children, however, provides oversight with the day to day running of the service and provides administrative support. There were twelve adults present on the day of inspection, this included the person in charge, eight childcare practitioners, one staff member employed through a community employment scheme, one cook and a maintenance staff member. The person in charge facilitated 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

- Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4),
- Regulation 11– Staffing Levels (1)(2)(8)(a),
- Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child (1)(a),
- Regulation 21 – Equipment and Materials,
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,
- Regulation 25 - First Aid (1), (2)(a)(b),
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures (1) (a) (b), (4),
- 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 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)

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)

Sixteen staff files including the file for the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

(a)

Twelve written validated references were available from a previous employer and

(b)

Eleven written validated references were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff members. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was available for four staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)
Ten 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 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(9)
Five written validated references were not available in respect of four staff members

(2) (a)
Three written references from a past employer were not validated in respect of two staff members.

(2) (b)
One written reference from a reputable source was not validated in respect of one staff member.

(4)
One staff member working directly with children did not have evidence of a recognised qualification on their file.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)
All outstanding written validated references for staff have been obtained.

(4)
Staff files have been updated with staff qualifications. The registered provider has implemented a checklist system whereby all new staff to the service will have the required documentation on file prior to employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of reference checks and qualifications received.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive action taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 have 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 children. There were fourteen children being supervised directly by nine childcare staff.
- (3)
- The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of inspection demonstrated by the following observation;
- There were four adults providing direct care to eight children aged between 2 years 8 months – 4 years in the ECCE room.
 - There were four adults providing direct care to six children aged between 2 – 3 years in the Toddler room.
 - An additional adult employed via an employment scheme undergoing training and the person in charge were also available to assist in the service on the day of inspection.

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 of children

All meals were provided by the service and prepared onsite by a cook. Children received breakfast at 09:30am and a hot meal at 11:30am. The hot meal on the day of inspection was fried rice, chicken and vegetables. Children sat at low tables eating together, staff also sat with the children, engaging in conversation. Younger children were supported to feed in highchairs. Drinks were provided by the service.

Sanitary accommodation was available to the children directly off the care rooms and children accessed the toilet independently during the inspection. Adequate nappy changing facilities were available in the sanitary accommodation.

Supporting relationships around children

Staff working with the children were observed to be warm, kind and respectful towards the children in their care. Family photographs and birthday walls with the children's photographs were displayed in the care rooms at child level, helping the children feel connected to home. Each child's picture was positioned above designated low-level hooks for their coats and bags. 'All about me' activity sheets displayed on the wall of the care rooms had each child's name and their painted handprint.

Communication with parents regarding the children's day to day learning and activities were provided at drop off and collection times. Additional updates were provided via an online messaging application.

Physical and material environment

Both care room were spacious and laid out to facilitate free movement with various interest areas throughout. A dress up rail, kitchen area with play equipment and toy medical kits provided opportunity for role play. A rest area in the ECCE room had two vinyl couches for reading and resting throughout the session. Musical instruments, building blocks, jigsaws and toy vehicles were positioned on low accessible shelves. Children in the Toddler room participated in an arts and crafts activity with paint, glue and natural materials where they made 'hedgehogs' with

brown paint and leaves. Children in the ECCE room were observed sitting with staff participating in a sensory and fine motor activity with modelling dough and tools such as rolling pins and shape cutters.

A separate 'quiet room' provided a designated space for children who required a calmer environment during the session. A dark tent, a low-level bed to rest on and two large soft chairs provided a low stimulating environment for children to self-regulate and relax if they wished.

A large enclosed outdoor area with natural grass provided an opportunity for outdoor play. The well-maintained outdoor area had large colourful tyres positioned throughout the garden to form an obstacle course. Energetic play was supported with the availability of slides, a playhouse and a wooden climbing frame. A plastic corrugated roof covered part of the outdoor space to allow for play during all weather conditions. Sand trays, wall mounted black boards, ride on vehicles and a dolls house were available. An allotment area was also available to the children where they were supported to plant carrots, onions, herbs and flowers. Vines with grapes, apple, pear and plum trees were observed in the garden area planted by the children.

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 pre-school had a variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys, materials and equipment available for the children to use and play with. Low level open shelving units displaying the pre-school materials and equipment and ensured the resources were easily accessible to the children at all times. Defined areas of interest were observed and included a small world playhouse, a cosy reading corner, a dress up area, black boards, a musical keyboard and a toy phone and computer. A variety of multi-sensory experiences were provided including sand/water tables, a tuff tray, modelling clay with tools and tabletop materials such as 'latches and clatches' boards, which supported the children to engage in meaningful play experiences and engage in open-ended discovery. Aprons and outdoor overalls were available for messy play activities.

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 full length glass entrance door to the service was secure and managed by the staff within. This prevented children exiting the pre-school unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service. A doorbell alerted staff to any visitors.

Cleaning products were stored safely on high shelves out of reach of children.

The kitchen was inaccessible to the children on the day of the inspection.

The perimeter of the outdoor play area was secured by a wooden fence, concrete wall and gate.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap and warm water were available for hand washing. Paper hand towels were accessible to children from wall mounted dispensers. Pedal bins were available in each care room and 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.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were clearly identified and unobstructed in each pre-school room. A fire assembly point was located to the side of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for two staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. A low level shelf accessible to the children in the ECCE room was observed to be broken and hanging off the hooks, presenting a potential minor injury or trip hazard to a child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. One out of date Garda Vetting disclosure has been updated. The service has placed reminders to check all staff Garda Vetting are in place. A designated staff member has been assigned responsibility for monthly checks and recordkeeping. The second staff member requiring an updated Garda Vetting has left the service.
2. The broken shelf in the ECCE room has been removed.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. One updated Garda Vetting disclosure was forwarded to the inspectorate and viewed.
2. Photograph of the shelving unit received with shelf removed.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive action taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have 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)
Four staff members were qualified in First Aid response (FAR). Two FAR qualified staff members were available on the premises during the operational hours of the service on 03 October 2025.

(2)(a)
Suitably equipped first aid boxes were located throughout 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 15 September 2025.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number and type of the firefighting equipment on the premises. The firefighting equipment were serviced on 31 January 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)

Maintenance records of smoke alarms were not available on the premises.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Maintenance records for the smoke detection system were forwarded onto the inspectorate.

Supporting documentation submitted

Record of 'Fire detection and smoke alarm service and testing' dated 20 August 2025 was forwarded to the inspectorate.

Certificates of service of the fire alarm system dated 11 February 2025 and 20 August 2025 received.

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-two children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27 March 2026.