

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LS063
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Killadooley Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Killadooley, Ballybrophy, Co. Laois
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<b>Eircode:</b>	R32 CD78
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Frances Fogarty
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/11/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	59	PM	48
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	K. Murphy
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<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.
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### Description of service

The service is registered as a full day care service to accommodate children aged 0 to 6 years between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. The service is operated by a community provider.

The Early Years' Service is located on the ground floor of a two-storey purpose-built premises. Five pre-school rooms, a kitchen, a laundry, a staff room and an office are provided on the ground floor. School aged childcare facilities are located on the first floor. Outdoor play areas are attached to the front, side and rear of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available. The service is rural in its location in the village of Killadooley, County Laois.

### Staffing

Twenty-seven adults are employed in the service. The registered provider does not work in the service and was not present during the inspection. The person in charge was present throughout the inspection. Fifteen childcare staff were present and working directly with the children. The service was supported by the person in charge, a full-time cook and a staff member who engaged in environmental cleaning and support duties as determined by the person in charge. The service currently provides placement for a staff member participating in a community employment scheme.

### 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.

Regulation 9- Management and recruitment - (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (4)

Regulation 11 -Staffing levels - (1) (3) (8)(a)

Regulation 16- Record of a pre-school service – (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(h)(i)(j)(k)

Regulation 19- Health, welfare and development of child - (1)(b)

Regulation 20 – Facilities for Rest and Play -- (1)(a)(b) (3)(a)

Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 24- Checking In and Out and record of Attendance

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.

(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 designated person in charge and a person to deputise were available in the service.

(b)

The designated person in charge was present for the duration of the inspection.

Twenty-eight files including the file of the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available in respect of the files reviewed from past employers or from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the twenty-eight files reviewed.

In respect of twenty five of the twenty-eight files reviewed the service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. 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 in respect of three of the twenty-eight files reviewed. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d)

Police vetting was available in respect of four staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

Staff working directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at levels 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## 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)  
The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.
- (2)  
There were fifty-nine children attending the service in the morning and forty-eight children attending the service in the afternoon supervised directly by sixteen staff members including the person in charge.
- (8)(a)  
The staff roster and attendance records reviewed indicated that at least two adults are present throughout the opening hours of the service.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*
- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
  - (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
  - (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
  - (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
  - (e) the facilities available;*
  - (f) the opening hours and fees;*
  - (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
  - (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
  - (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
  - (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

### Compliance Information

- (1)  
The service kept and maintained written records of information in relation to the service in accordance with Regulation 16 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(h)(i)(j) and (k).

## 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-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(b)

All meals and snacks are prepared fresh by the cook. The daily menu plan reflected the provision of the food for breakfast, morning snack, dinner and afternoon snack. Children's dietary needs are catered for. A hot meal consisting of spaghetti bolognese and garlic bread was provided to children between 12:00 and 13:00. Water and milk were offered to children. Children enjoyed the selection of food provided during the inspection.

Older children went to the toilet independently and were assisted where necessary. Staff reminded children to wash their hands after using the toilet. For the younger children regular nappy changes were carried out on a scheduled and individual needs basis.

Children enjoyed extended play time in the outdoor environment engaged in various play activities including water play, physical play and free play.

Younger children slept in a restful atmosphere in the sleep rooms and were physically checked every ten minutes by staff. Good teamwork was observed amongst staff. Positive interactions were observed between staff and children. Eye contact was maintained; soft language tones were used and positive praise given to children on the completion of activities. Staff were familiar with children and their personalities. Staff worked in partnership with parents. A handheld electronic device was used to record information relating to each child's day. This information was available in real time to parents for view and comment.

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

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

*(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

*(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-*

*(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment were provided indoors and outdoors which included toys and equipment for construction, tabletop activities, arts and crafts and home corners.

(b)

A separate sleep room equipped with eight standard cots was attached to the baby room. A separate sleep room equipped with ten standard cots was attached to the wobbler room.

Low level beds were available in the service for any child over the age of two years who required rest or sleep.

(3) (a)

Outdoor play areas were available to the rear, side and front of the service. Natural grass and absorbent surface areas in place. The areas were equipped with a variety of bikes, trikes, swings and climb/slide units. Sheltered areas are in place to support year-round outdoor play. High-level fencing secures the perimeter of the outdoor area.

### 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 to the service was secure by means of a coded door to ensure the safety of the children within.

##### Infection Control:

The premises were visually clean. All toys and materials were easily cleanable. The pre-school rooms were ventilated by natural ventilation with windows open. The sanitary accommodation and nappy changing areas were ventilated by natural or mechanical ventilation. Supplies of paper hand towel and liquid soap were available in all sanitary accommodation.

##### Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature and was stored safely in the service. A digital application system was available to staff to record the administration of medicine if required.

##### Safe Sleep:

Sleep logs were in place to record the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children. Regular physical checks of the sleeping children were carried out by the staff member to observe the sleeping children. The occupied room temperature of the sleep rooms were maintained between 16 and 20 degrees Celsius.

##### Fire Safety:

Fire exit routes were unobstructed and fire assembly points were located to the front and rear of the premises.

##### Outing:

The person in charge stated that outings are not carried out by the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The most recent Garda vetting disclosure presented in respect of three of the staff members was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

## Infection Control:

- The nappy changing practice observed was inadequate for infection control purposes due to the following:
  - It was observed that staff did not remove the gloves and aprons worn for nappy changing prior to redressing the child.
  - It was observed that staff did not clean down the nappy changing mats in line with the instructions detailed on the manufacturers label for the cleaning solution used.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

Staff 1: revetting completed and returned (Document included).

Staff 2: revetting completed returned (Document included).

Staff 3: revetting completed returned (Document included).

The service has created a spreadsheet with each staff members last vetting date and what date we are to have the revetting completed for in 2026/2027/2028. (Photograph included).

#### Infection Control:

The staff have been made aware of the importance of following the services nappy changing procedures and the importance of removing their gloves and apron prior to redressing a child.

We have re-circulated the nappy changing procedure to all rooms and each staff member has confirmed that they read and understand this. (Documents included).

The service has changed the cleaning agent to be able to instantly wipe down the changing mat after use and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. (Photograph included).

## Summary Comment

In respect of the corrective actions taken documentary and photographic evidence was submitted to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate, reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

## 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.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

The records of arrival and departure reviewed verified that each child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by a nominated staff member.

(3)(a)

All entry to the service with the exception of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) has to be approved by a staff member.

(b)

A visitor log was in place to record the details and purpose of all visitors to the service.

(4)

The visitor log is retained throughout the annual operation of the service.

## 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)  
The designated person in charge and three other staff members were qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)  
A fully equipped first aid box were readily available in the service.

(b)  
A first aid box was accessible to the adults caring for the 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 firefighting 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 monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 08 October 2025.

(b)  
A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and

smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment in the premises were serviced in October 2025. The smoke alarms in the premises were serviced in August 2025.

(4)  
 A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in conspicuous positions throughout the service.

**43QPart VI - Safety**

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

**Compliance Information**

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