

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH198
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Name of Service:	The Village Preschool, Moynalty
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Address of Service:	Moynalty, Kells, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	A82 V667
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Name of Registered Provider:	Celine Govern
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna
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
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Description of service

The Village Pre-school was first established in 2002 and provides a sessional, part-time and full day care service to children from 2-6 years. The service is registered to operate from 8am to 6pm, and eligible children participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) from 9am to 12 midday. The service consists of 2 rooms: The Lunch Room and The Big Room, sanitary facilities and an outdoor space.

Staffing

The service employs 11 staff, including the registered provider, a person in charge, 5 childcare staff, 2 school-age staff, 1 relief staff member, and 1 bus driver.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 Management & Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels, Regulation 16 Record in relation to Pre-school Service, Regulation 19 Health, Welfare & Development of Child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child, Regulation 25 First Aid, Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures, Regulation 27 Supervision and Regulation 28 Insurance.

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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, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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
- (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 designated person in charge, and a named person to deputise in their absence.
- (b) Following discussion with the person in charge/registered provider, it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation, the designated person in charge or the named person in charge was on the premises.
- (c) A management structure was in place, which was clearly identifiable through review of the staff roster on display and through discussion with the staff team.
- (2) The files for 11 staff were reviewed.
- (a) (b) Two references were on file for all 11 staff as required.

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(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 11 staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all employed staff.

(d) A review of the employment history for the 11 staff, demonstrated that no adult had lived outside the State of Ireland for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult, therefore police vetting was not required.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the 8 staff employed to work with children, held an appropriate childcare qualification at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. A qualification for 2 school aged childcare staff, and the bus driver was not required.

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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained so throughout the inspection. The following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at maximum attendance

Four adults cared for 29 children aged 2 years 11 months to 5 years 2 months, of whom 8 attended on a sessional basis and 21 attended on a part time or full day care basis.

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In addition to the above, the registered provider came on site following the commencement of the inspection and covered in the preschool room for a period in the afternoon.

(8) A review of the staff roster, and discussion with the person in charge and staff confirmed that the registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

Compliance Information

(16)

- (1) A record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:
- (h) Details of attendance of each individual pre-school child who attends the service.
- (i) Details of a weekly staff rosters, detailing their working hours and lunch break cover.

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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
- (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

The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and well-being were facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs

A rolling morning snack is in place in the preschool. The children were observed to have their snack at a time of their choosing. Food choices available to the children on the day were cheese, brioche rolls, jam roly poly, yoghurts, pancakes, ham, crackers, and toast. Some children were observed to request additional food items at snack time, which the staff facilitated. Drinks were provided at snack and meal times.

The children who use the toilet were encouraged to do so independently, with staff remaining close by for support where needed. Children who wore nappies had them changed in line with their personal care needs. Aprons were provided for messy play activities. Spare clothing was available for each child. Suitable clothing was provided for children to play outdoors.

Cosy sofas and armchairs, along with stackable beds, provided areas where children could take time out to rest and relax during their day.

Outdoor play is part of the everyday routine within the preschool. The door to the outdoor area remained open during the inspection, except when the children gathered for home time after the ECCE session had finished, and sang goodbye songs. The children were observed to choose where to play indoors or outdoors, and each of the play areas was supervised by staff.

Supporting Relationships

The atmosphere upon the inspector's arrival was warm and welcoming. The children greeted the inspector and were proud to show them their preschool. The children appeared familiar with the staff who cared for them and called out for some help and support when required.

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The staff were observed to promote positive behaviour, and praise was given where positive interactions were observed. The staff were observed to demonstrate sensitivity, warmth and positive regard for children and their families, through respecting parental wishes and facilitating the children's individual preferences and choices. Communication with parents is through in-person conversations at arrival and collection, and through the use of a digital application. The staff were observed to work well together, ensuring transitions were smooth for the children.

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

The registered provider ensured all reasonable measures were put in place to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending, such as:

General Safety:

Upon the inspector's arrival, the premises were appropriately secured to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The garden area was surrounded by wooden fences and walls and a secure gate, and no hazards were identified in the outdoor area. Play materials and equipment used by the children were presented in good condition. Risk assessments were completed daily, including a recent visit of lambs to the service. Floor coverings were maintained in good condition. Cleaning materials were stored out of the reach of children. Fire exits remained free from obstruction during the inspection. The children were observed to be adequately supervised by staff during the inspection.

Infection Control:

The inspector observed the following infection control measures in practice within the service:

Thermostatically controlled warm running water, liquid soap, paper towels and bins were provided at each wash hand basin. Hand washing was observed before the children had their rolling snack and for their dinner, and after using the toilet or having their clothes changed. The tables where children had their food were cleaned before snack and meal times. Sanitary areas were ventilated through means of openable windows. Where children took their own snacks in from home, these were stored in the fridge. Cleaning schedules were available for review and completed to date. External waste bins were stored in an area not accessible to the children.

Non-Compliance Information

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General Safety:

1. The surface temperatures of two radiators in the Big room were recorded between 49.9°C and 50.8°C. Hot surfaces over 50°C pose a burn risk to a child. It is acknowledged that these were located behind armchairs and a painting unit and when brought to the staffs attention, they adjusted it immediately which reduced the surface temperatures to 49.4°C and lower.
2. The edging of a low partition wall between two areas in the Big room was broken and had a nail exposed, which posed a risk of injury to a child.
3. A lead from the fridge in the Lunchroom was not adequately secured out of the reach of children, which posed a risk of injury to a child.
4. The door to the kitchen was propped open for most of the inspection. On two occasions, children were observed to go into the kitchen and ask staff for a drink, and to request some food. Hazards present in the kitchen, such as a kettle, sharp utensils and while staff are preparing and cooking meals, present a risk of injury to a child.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The heating had been mistakenly put on constant during the inspection. Our normal procedure is that the heating is on a timer, which means the radiators come off and on and off throughout the day, and the radiators don't get to a temperature that is too hot for children. The timer has been programmed to a timer instead of a constant. Heating will be kept on a timer instead of constant.
2. This has been repaired. Educators have been instructed to let management know immediately when these items are identified through the risk assessment.
3. The fridge Lead has been secured to the wall. Educators have been instructed to let management know immediately when these items are identified through the risk assessment.
4. A child safety gate has been installed. Educators have been advised that the child safety gate must be closed at all times and that children should not have access to the kitchen.

Supporting documentation submitted

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General Safety:

Photographic evidence of: heating timers, edging repaired, fridge lead secured to the wall and a child safety gate in place.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted has adequately addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 23.

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

(2) (a) & (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises and was stored in an accessible and conspicuous location in the service and available at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) A review of staff files and the staff roster for weeks beginning 16th March and 23rd March demonstrated that a person trained in FAR (First Aid Response) was not at all times available to children in attendance as follows;
- The one staff member who is trained in FAR has their lunch break daily from 12 midday to 1pm. During this time, there is no staff member trained in FAR immediately available to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

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Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member with FAR training has agreed to take her lunch break on the premises. FAR training is booked for summer break. Two further educators will be trained; there will be 3 educators in total with FAR training.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence to confirm the first aid booking.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted has adequately addressed the non-compliance in Regulation 25 (1).

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 record of the monthly fire drills that take place was available, with the most recent fire drill recorded on 27 February 2026.
- (b) The annual maintenance certificate for the fire extinguishers and the smoke alarms was dated 04 March 2026.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed on walls throughout the service, which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.

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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

On the day of the inspection, the inspector observed the staff members appropriately supervising the children in attendance. Operating a free flow system where children can play indoors or outdoors at times of their choosing, all staff members were observed to work well together, ensuring that they were well positioned to supervise all children both indoors and outdoors at all times during the inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had insurance cover in place for up to 33 pre-school children attending the service on a full-day care basis. The policy showed that the service had insurance in place from 28 March 2025 to 27 March 2026.