

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO033
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Name of Service:	Claremount Early Learning and Childcare Centre Limited
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Address of Service:	Cluain Aoibhinn, Claremount, Claremorris, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F12 VE89
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Name of Registered Provider:	Thomas King
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	19/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	62	PM	55
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate TUSLA, Child and Family Agency 2 nd Floor, St Mary's HQ Castlebar Co Mayo
Inspection undertaken by:	B Lavin F Kelly
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Claremount early learning and childcare centre is in a residential area of Claremorris in Co Mayo. The service is registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional services to children aged from 0 to 6 years from 07:45-18:00 hours. The service is also registered to provide school aged childcare services. The service has five playrooms, a separate sleep room, a kitchen, office and sanitary facilities. There are enclosed outdoor play areas with play equipment provided for the children on the premises.

Staffing

At the time of the inspection there were 12 adults in the service caring for the children, the service director and a student on work placement. The registered provider does not work directly with the children.

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.

On inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 20. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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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 inspectors wish 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*
- (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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and*
- (c) these Regulations.*

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise.
- (b) The staff roster indicated that both the designated person in charge and deputy was on the premises while the pre-school children were present.
- (c) A management structure was available in the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Since the last inspection on the 11th November 2025, three adults and one student of Early Childhood Care and Education had joined the service and their files were reviewed:

- (2)(a) Four of the required eight written and validated references were from previous employers.
- (b) Two of the required eight written and validated references were from a source other than past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for four adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
- (4) There was evidence that three adults who required a childcare qualification had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at least Level 5 on the National Framework of qualifications or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.
- (7) One adult in the service had induction records. These were kept in written and were signed and dated by the staff member. Staff supervision records were in place for staff members. These records detailed training needs and were scheduled to occur at regular intervals.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)(b) There was one adult working in the service that did not have the two required written validated references on file. There was one student on work placement in the service, that had the two required written references, however these references were not validated by the registered provider or a person acting on their behalf.

Following the inspection of the 11/11/25 management stated the following in the corrective and preventative action plan (CAPA). Management will ensure that the Recruitment Policies are adhered to and all required vetting, references, ID and records of employment are in place and validated for the staff member before employment starts.

- (3) The correct vetting procedures specified in paragraph (2) were not carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

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(2)(d) International police vetting was not available for one adult working in the service that had lived in another state for a period longer than six months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b) Written and validated references are now on file for the one staff member and student present in the service.

(2) (d) International police vetting has been applied for.

(3) Vetting procedures will be completed in full prior to any person taking on a position within the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 27/04/2026, the following documentation was submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

- A copy of the email acknowledging the application for police vetting dated the 19/04/26 was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate. It was noted on the application that the police disclosure application can take up to 20 days to process.
- Two of the outstanding validated references for the student was submitted.
- Two of outstanding validated references for the member of staff was submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider did not adequately address the non-compliance found in 9(2)(d) as the police vetting remains outstanding.

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.

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Compliance Information

- (1) There were 11 adults working directly with children on the day of inspection. One student on placement was present in the preschool room. The student on placement was supervised by qualified staff members.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were provided on the morning of inspection in accordance with the required ratios considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:
 - Play school room: 3 adults cared for 14 children aged between 2 and 3 years of age.
 - Toddler room: 3 adults cared for 13 children aged between 1 and 2 years of age.
 - Wobbler room: 1 adult cared for 5 children aged 1 year.
 - Montessori room: 2 adults cared for 19 children aged between 3 and 5 years of age.
 - Junior preschool room: 1 adult cared for 11 children aged 3 years of age.

One additional staff member provided relief cover for breaks and nappy changes.

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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)(i) Details of the staff roster were available for inspection.
- (k) A sample of three accident, injury or incident records involving pre-school children attending the service were reviewed. The records reviewed detailed a parental signature after the accident/incident occurred.
- (3) The records referred to in paragraph (1) were furnished to the inspector on the premises.

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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

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

- The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their snack and hot meal in a relaxed and unhurried manner. Perishable items were stored in the service fridge.
- The children had access to water on a low-level table in the playrooms which allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty.
- Children were encouraged and supported by adults to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence. Hand washing was observed prior to snack time, after outdoor play and toileting.
- Each child's privacy and dignity were respected when using the toilet or with some assistance as required from adults.
- Adults ensured that children who were in nappies had them changed as required throughout the day. Adults were observed talking and singing to children during nappy changing. The correct nappy changing procedure was observed in line with the service policy.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couches in a designated rest and relaxation area in the playrooms.
- Stackable beds were available for rest and sleep for children over 2 years of age. The toddler playroom was converted into a sleep room after lunch. Staff remained in the playroom during sleep and physical sleep checks were carried out every 10 minutes by adults.

Non-Compliance Information

1. An individual care plan was devised for a child attending the service. However, the staff working with this child informed the inspector that they were unaware of the contents of the care plan as it was developed with management and stored in the office. Contents were not shared with the staff working with the child on a daily basis.

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It was stated in the CAPA following the inspection of the 11/11/25 that children who require additional support will be identified and their care needs planned for in the form of an individual care plan.

2. On the day of inspection, for the main meal, plain chicken, beans and mashed potatoes with gravy was offered to the children. In the Montessori room, a number of children stated they did not like the plain chicken offered. The staff informed the inspector that they were aware that not all the children liked this dinner, but an alternative was not available. The staff were observed taking chicken off some plates and putting extra potatoes and beans from other plates to try and suit the children's choices. Three children only had potatoes and gravy.

A small jug of gravy was available, 2 children were heard ask for more gravy, but they were told there was no more available. The staff were aware that the children would not eat this dinner, but an alternative was not available and many children did not eat this meal.

3. The children were served their dinner on small plastic plates and were given dessert spoons to eat with. The cutlery and plates were not suitable for the children's age and stage of development.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) The written care plan has been shared with staff members and is available to view within the care room. Management will ensure that this procedure is carried out with future care plans.
- (2) The main cook within the service was not working on the day of inspection. The cook has taken note of the children's food interests and will monitor and adjust the menu accordingly. An alternative meal will be available for children.
- (3) Larger plates and cutlery are now available for the older children. Younger children will have plates appropriate to their age.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately addressed the non-compliance's found on inspection.

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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 outdoor areas were secured with fencing and gates to protect the children within the outdoor play area.
- Medication and cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.
- The blind cords were appropriately secured to the windows throughout the service.
- Visibility strips and visual pictures were installed on glass doors and windows for safety precautions and to prevent injury to children and staff.

Infection Control:

- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, pedal operated bins. Child friendly handwashing posters were located above the wash hand basins as prompts to promote good handwashing practices.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, wiping their noses, toileting and before mealtimes.
- There was three nappy changing units available with clean intact change mats. There were leak proof, airtight, foot pedal operated bins for disposal of nappies.
- Bed sheets and blankets used for sleep were washed daily.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered to a child by staff on the day of inspection.
- Temperature reducing medication was available. It was safely stored and in date. In conversation staff were able to detail the procedures for administering medication to children.

Safe Sleep:

- A temperature checking device was available in the designated sleep room to monitor the sleep room temperature while the younger children were sleeping.
- Stackable beds were available for the children aged over 2 years of age who required sleep provision.

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- Regular sleep checks were carried out on the children and recorded.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were unobstructed throughout the service.
- Clear signage was available to highlight the exits.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- A staff member was observed entering the Toddler room in an abrupt or forceful manner. The door into the playroom was opened by a staff member without taking due care that the small toddlers could have been standing behind the door. This posed a risk of injury to the children if they were standing or sitting within reach of this door.
- The front door was not secure when the inspectors went to leave the building. This posed a risk of a child exiting the building unsupervised or unauthorised entry to the building.
- A trailing cord for a monitor was plugged in adjacent to a cot in the sleep room. The trailing cord beside a cot posed a risk of strangulation. The monitor was immediately unplugged and removed by the inspection team.
- A drop rail on one of the cots was broken which allowed for the rail to be moved up and down by a child and could pose a risk of injury to a child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- Signs have been put on all care room doors reminding staff and visitors to look before entering. Staff have been reminded of the need for caution when entering care rooms.
- There is a large sign on the door asking for the door to be kept locked at all times. Staff have been reminded not to leave the door on the latch for any reason and to ensure it is always shut properly when they come in.
- The monitor has been put on a high shelf with all cables out of reach. The risk assessment for the sleep room has been amended to include this.
- The cot was removed and a replacement cot has been ordered. All staff have been reminded to advise management if they notice anything is damaged or broken and the room leader will check all the cots weekly as per the sleep room risk assessment.

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Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Documentation submitted to the office of the early year's inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance's found on inspection.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

Seven of the eight mattresses needed replacing in the sleep room. They were in poor condition and lumpy. They did not fit the cot base sufficiently or have a cover that was of waterproof material.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Seven new mattresses have been ordered. The sleep room daily risk assessment has been updated to ensure that all staff are aware of the need to record any damage and make the manager aware. The manager will sign off on all risk assessment sheets. These will be stored in the office and any reported issues from the sheets will be logged and action taken in a timely manner.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection.

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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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

On the day of inspection, there was no person trained in First Aid Responder on the premises and available to the children during the operational hours of the service. There were 2 staff trained in First Aid Responder, one of the staff members was rostered off for the week and the second trained staff member was rostered to work from 07.45 to 16.45 on the day of inspection. The service is open from 7.45 to 18:00 hour each day. This posed a risk to the children and staff attending in the event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

There are three staff members trained in first aid responder and will one staff member will be on the premises at all times during the operational hours of the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection.