

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MO061
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Killawalla Playschool
-------------------------	-----------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Killawalla, Westport, Co. Mayo
----------------------------	--------------------------------

<b>Eircode:</b>	F28 TR64
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Neringa Olisaukiene
-------------------------------------	---------------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/02/2025
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	18	PM	No.
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency 2nd Floor, St Mary's HQ Castlebar Co Mayo
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	B Lavin
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

This sessional service is a community-based and located in a rural area in County Mayo. The service caters for children aged from two to six years of age and operates a morning session from 09:15-12:15 hours. The service is located in a section of the local primary school. There is one playroom, sanitary facilities and a designated outdoor play area where children have access to outdoor play equipment and a polytunnel.

### Staffing

There are four adults employed in the service. Two of the adults are employed through the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 Management and Recruitment, 11 Staffing Levels, 15 Record of a Pre-school child, 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child, 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child, 25 first Aid, 26 Fire Safety Measures and 28 Insurance; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8 Notification of Change in Circumstances. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a pre-school child.

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.

#### Additional Information

A referral to Services Operating Out of Registration Status department was completed on 23/03/2025.

#### 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 II - Registration and Register

#### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The service had made a change to the person in charge without submitting an application for a change in circumstances to the Early Years Inspectorate and obtaining prior approval.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

A change of circumstances application was submitted to the Inspectorate on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 for a change of person in charge. The registered provider will ensure that future applications will be submitted and approved prior to changes being made within the service.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence of the change in circumstances application submitted to the Inspectorate.

#### Summary Comment

The non compliance remains outstanding until approval has been given for the requested change of circumstance from the Inspectorate.

### 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 in the service and a named person was available to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2) (a) (b).

The records of four adults employed in the service were reviewed. Seven written and verified past employer references and one reference from a reputable source in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of the four adults employed in the service.

(c) A garda vetting disclosure was available for the four adults in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for the four adults.

(d) International police vetting was available for two of the adults that had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months

(4) Evidence of the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent between level 6 to level 8 was available on file for the four staff who worked directly with the children.

## 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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

(3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained. There were 18 children present on a sessional basis aged between two years six months to four years old with four staff members caring for the children.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (c) an authorised person.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) (a) to (i) The inspector reviewed a random sample of ten children's records across the children attending the service. The required information including the authorisation to collect the child, details of illness or special needs of the child, the emergency contact person for the child and record of immunisations were fully completed for each child.
- (3) (c) The required information was made readily available for inspection to the inspector in the service by the person in charge on request.
- (4) The person in charge confirmed that the records were retained for the required period of 2 years.

### 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.

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs

- Drinking water was available to all children in individual beakers throughout the preschool session.
- During the inspection, the children ate a snack which consisted of fruit, yogurt, crackers, ham, sandwiches and cheese provided by their parents/ guardians. The children were seated at low tables and chairs and supervised by the adults who gave assistance where it was needed and encouraged conversation with the children during mealtime.
- Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snacks without being rushed. The atmosphere during snack time was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- The children wore appropriate outdoor clothing and had individual changes of clothing available should they be needed. Wellington boots were worn by the children when playing outdoors. The children washed their hands before snack time and after toileting and when dirty due to outdoor play.
- The staff responded to children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to nappy changing, toileting and toilet training. On the day of inspection, two children wore nappies and were changed on a regular basis. The privacy and dignity of a child having their nappy changed was maintained. The toilet trained children had unrestricted access to the toilets and did not have to wait to use the toilet. The staff used the correct language surrounding toileting and nappy changing. The staff responded to children's cues quickly.
- The children enjoyed freedom of movement in the preschool room and outdoor area. They were able to explore several different interest areas while outdoors.
- In the playroom, the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of a child size couch in a designated cosy area.
- The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours and supported children to find positive solutions. The staff helped children with turn taking when playing with the potting soil.

### Supporting relationships

- The staff members demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children.
- Staff supported children to engage positively with one another and the children were encouraged to engage in play activities that required turn taking and sharing. Staff members were heard encouraging children to be mindful of the feelings of those around them which promoted an ethos of friendship and working together.
- The service provided parents and guardians with daily information, including significant events or activities involving their child, for example, verbal communication at drop off and collection times and through a group messaging service.
- Staff guided and supported children who needed more help. Staff used positive strategies to support children's inclusion for example using personal greetings, news of the day, looking at family photographs, choice board, visual routines chart and giving appropriate encouragement.
- The staff used visual aids and probed with questions such as 'who is this?', 'how many are there?', and 'where is that?' during story time. The children enjoyed action songs, mealtime songs and children's learning songs.

### Physical and material environment

- The children were observed at free play, connecting, stacking, building, linking and doing puzzles and tabletop activities. The children played with transport vehicles, a toy kitchen, soft toys, farm toys, baby dolls, dinosaurs, dress up and natural environment items such as leaves, twigs and pinecones.
- Outside play was encouraged and children were observed to play freely. There was an enclosed outdoor play area for the children. The children had the opportunity to develop their gross motor skills on a seesaw, balance blocks, ride on toys and climb through tunnels. Sensory play and imaginative play were provided for with playhouses and a sandbox.
- The children have the use of a playtunnel to plant flowers and vegetables. Children were observed using this space to dig, plant and carry out imaginative play.
- Visual aids in the form of picture and word reminders and instructions were displayed and used with the children to support their learning. Displayed on the walls were themes including family, winter, learning about babies, we are learning to count, the solar system, the five seasons, and visual aids such as 'I cover my cough', 'I listen quietly' etc.

## 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 service was secured with a latch to ensure the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the playroom.
- The outdoor areas were secured with fencing and gates to protect the children within.
- 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.
- Internal doors were appropriately secured to ensure children from accessing unsafe areas and the school building.
- Leads, cables and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trip or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperatures were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.

##### Infection Control:

- Children were observed washing their hands after painting activities and before mealtimes.
- Warm water was available in all hand washing basins with temperatures ranging from 23.9°C to 35.9°C.
- Paper towel, liquid soap and lidded bins were available at the hand basins and sanitary areas in the service.
- The service was maintained in a clean condition.

##### Administration of Medication:

On the day of inspection, no child was on medication. Through discussion with the inspector the staff demonstrated that they were aware of the correct procedures for the storage and administration of medicines.

##### Fire Safety:

The emergency exit route was observed to be free from obstruction during the inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

In the outdoor all-weather play area, there were two tricycles and a child's wheelbarrow with chipped paint and thereby posing a potential safety risk if consumed by a child.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

The tricycles have been painted with specialised rust paint on the affected areas. The child's wheelbarrow has been replaced with new ones.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Photographic evidence has been submitted to the Inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions submitted by the registered provider have adequately addressed the non-compliance found on inspection

### 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 service provided evidence that there were three staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box within the playroom which was safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped and available to the children attending 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 was available of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 13/01/2025.
- (b) Maintenance records of all the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available in the service. A record for the firefighting equipment advised that the last service was 20/05/2024 and smoke alarm advised that the last service was 18/12/2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed on the wall in the playrooms in the service.

## 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 certification of adequate insurance which had an expiry date of 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

The insurance for 22 pre-school children was for a sessional and included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,

insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.