

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO062
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Name of Service:	Killeen Childcare Ltd
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Address of Service:	Killeen Community Centre, Killeen, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F28 TX65
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Name of Registered Provider:	Emer O'Malley
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/10/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly
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Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

This community based sessional service was located in the rural village of Killeen which is near Louisburgh, Co Mayo. It was located in a local community centre. It offers a sessional service from 09:00 to 12:00, Monday to Friday for children aged from 2 to 6 years. The service operated from a large playroom and has access to a well-equipped enclosed outdoor play area adjacent to the service.

Staffing

The service has 4 staff, which includes a service manager and 2 childcare staff and the registered provider. The registered provider of the service does not work in the service on a daily basis.

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.

On inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 9, 19 and 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspections, the deputy manager was in charge and facilitated the inspection. Following a review of the service files and discussion with the deputy manager, it was confirmed that there were 4 staff employed in the service, which included a registered provider that does not work in the service on a daily basis.

Three files of the required 4 files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) Six of the required 8 written and appropriately validated references available were from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) Not applicable as all written validated reference available for inspection were from previous employer.

- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 4 staff working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every 3 years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for 1 adult working in the service that had lived for a period longer than 6 consecutive months outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) All adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a,b,d) On the day of inspection, there was 1 staff member that did not have full staff file. A record of work experience and 2 validated written references were not available for inspection. The inspector was unable to establish if police vetting was required as evidence in the form of history of employment was not available for review. This posed a risk as inappropriate vetting procedures carried out prior to staff being recruited.
- (4) On the day of inspection there was 1 adult that did not have police vetting for a period of 3 years that they lived outside the jurisdiction.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the registered provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff will have their vetting reviewed prior to commencing work. We updated our Staffing Policy to include the requirement of overseas vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 18/10/25, the manager of the service provided evidence that the staff member submitted an application to apply for the outstanding police vetting.

On the 11/11/25 and the 20/11/25, copies of the outstanding documentation, which included references, history of employment and police vetting were submitted to the Early Years offices.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence were reviewed and the non-compliance identified under regulation 9 have been adequately 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) During the period of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.
- (2) On the day of inspection, the following care rooms was in operation.
At 09:25 there were 3 adults working with 10 preschool children

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

- The service supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships, they did so by assigning a key worker to each child. Each staff member was assigned a small group of children, they developed close links with each child and they were responsible for doing regular observations on the children, so their interests and experiences were considered when developing the curriculum plans.
- The children's first task was when the children arrive, they "self-sign in". They sign in with their photograph and take a cushion and a book and sit in a circle. They start the session with a story and a song.
- The service provided a child centre approach. This was observed on the day when a child became hungry, they told a staff member. It was decided that the sand timer would be used to let the rest of the rest of the children know that it was time to tidy up for lunch.

- The service provided opportunities for the children to play in small and larger group activities. This was observed on the day when 4 children wanted to play outside. One staff member was able to facilitate this activity, while the rest of the children engaged in other activities around the playroom.
- The transition of children within the service was observed to be seamless and comfortable for the children, for example when it was time to tidy up and move on to another activity the staff member introduced a sand timer and the children were aware of the routine and took part in singing the “time to clean song” without any prompt from the staff. The children were observed to happily sing and dance around the room and completed the task in a few minutes.
- The playroom was designed to provide a range of challenging, creative and enriching experiences for the children attending. At one stage during the session, the inspector observed 6 different activities around the room, the staff did not lead any of the activities but let the children lead the play. The children appeared happy and content, this was evident by the laughter and the smiling faces.
- All of the children spent time in the well-equipped outdoor play area, there was a large range of activities available to the children, which included a playhouse, table top activities (arts and crafts), water play, slide and climbing frame, ride on toys and music and water wall. The children all wore outdoor gear and wellington boots.

Non-Compliance Information

The playroom lacked a soft seating area where they could sit and relax during the session. The only seating that was available to the children were the low-level chairs and the small foam discs that they sat on when they arrived at the service in the morning. This may have an impact on the children attending as they did not have an area to sit and relax or opt out on an activity if they wish.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

An area located in the corner of the room was created specially as a soft seat area away from the main activity centre of the playroom, this area will be further developed in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 24/11/25, the registered provider submitted a photograph of an area where the children could sit and relax . This area consisted of a large bean bag and cushions.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence were reviewed and the non-compliance identified under regulation 19 have been adequately 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) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 adults trained at in First Aid Responder level and were available to the children.
- (2)(a) There was suitably equipped first aid box available to the children, the contents were checked on a regular basis by a staff member.
- (b) The first aid was conveniently located on a high shelf in the playroom.

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) Written records of the fire drills undertaken in the service were kept by staff with the last fire drill recorded as having been undertaken on the 10/09/2025.
- (1)(b) A certificate of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms was dated for the Nov 2024 and was available for inspection.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the service.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

On the day of inspection, it was noted that a fire exit door in the playroom was closed using a mechanism that was not easily opened which posed a fire safety risk to the children and staff attending.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective & Preventive Action

Fire Safety:

The door lock was changed within days and will not be altered in the future .

Supporting documentation submitted

Fire Safety:

By close of business on the day of inspection the manager had informed the inspector that the closing mechanism would be replaced as soon as possible and the current method to lock the door would no longer be used. On the 18th October, the manger sent photographs that the lock on the door on the fire exit route was changed to a turn lock mechanism and could be easily opened.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence were reviewed and the non-compliance identified under regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.