

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO083		
Name of Service:	Mulranny Community Playgroup Ltd		
Address of Service:	Playgroup Building, Mulranny, Co. Mayo		
Eircode:	F28 R721		
Name of Registered Provider:	Louisa Stoney		
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	27/02/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM 8
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.		
Inspection undertaken by:	M Farrell		
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.		

Description of service

Mulranny Community Playgroup Ltd is registered to provide part-time and sessional services for children aged two to six years of age and is located in Mulranny in Co. Mayo. The service is open weekdays from 9:30 to 14:00hours for 38 weeks of the year with sessional services operating from 09:30-12:30hours. There are two playrooms in the service and a small sensory room, kitchen and sanitary facilities. There is a small enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the building directly accessible from one of the playrooms.

Staffing

There are four adults in the service including childcare staff, a staff employed under a community employment scheme and relief staff. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.

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 regulations 9, 11, 16, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28. 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) There was a designated person in charge in the service and a named person to deputise in her absence.
- (b) Both the designated person in charge and deputy were present throughout the inspection.
- (2)
- Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that one new adult was working in the service since the previous inspection.
- (a) Two written validated references from previous employers in particular their most recent employer were available on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all four adults whose files were reviewed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (4) Evidence of the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent was available for three staff who worked directly with the preschool children.

Non-Compliance Information

The following information was unavailable for inspection:

- (2)
- (d) International police vetting was unavailable for one adult in the service who had lived outside of the State for longer than six months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider advised in writing that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

An application was submitted for an International Child Protection Certificate for the staff member. The certificate was obtained and is now on file.

The service will ensure that if any future member of staff has lived outside the State for longer than six months, that they will obtain international police vetting. A checklist has been created for the staff folder, to ensure that all necessary documentation is received and kept on file for each member of staff in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of an International Child Protection Certificate dated the 5 March 2026.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider to the Inspectorate has been reviewed and found to have addressed the non-compliance found under Regulation 9 on inspection.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

(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) There were 2 staff working directly with 16 children on the inspector's unannounced arrival to the service. An additional staff member employed through a community employment scheme was also present for the duration of the inspection.
- (4) The minimum adult to child ratios were maintained during the unannounced inspection. 16 children were cared for by 2 adults during the sessional service provision and 2 adults cared for 8 children during the parttime service provision.
- (8)(a) There were always at least two adults on the premises during the inspection. Staff rosters and discussion with staff found that two adults were present during service opening hours.

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;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (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.*

(2) 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)

The following information was available in the service's statement of purpose and function and policies:

- (b) Information on the service types and ages of children that the service is registered to provide services to.
- (c) Details of the adult to child ratios in the service.
- (d) Information on the type of care or programme provided in the service.
- (e) Details of the facilities available in the service.
- (f) Information regarding the service's hours of opening and fees.
- (g) The service's policies, procedures and statements as required under Regulation 10 were available.
- (h) The staff kept records of details of the attendance of each pre-school child recorded daily in attendance books.
- (i) Details of the staff rostered were recorded in an attendance record.
- (j) There was a medication administration record form available for staff to keep details if medication was needed to be given to a child in the service in line with the service's policy on medication administration.
- (k) The service had an accident and incident record book for the recording of details of accidents and incidents that had occurred in the service.

(3) Written records were made available to the inspector by the designated person in charge on request.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was no record of experience on file for one staff member in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(a)

The registered provider advised in writing that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

A completed employment history was obtained for the staff member and retained on file. A checklist has been created for the staff folder, to ensure that all necessary documentation is received and kept on file for each member of staff in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of an employment history and copy of checklist.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider has addressed the regulatory non-compliance found on inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service was very well equipped with suitable, age-appropriate toys and play equipment. Both the playrooms were laid out in defined, themed areas of interest with wide variety of toys for children to choose from. Areas included a well-developed home corner and shop area with numerous kitchen utensils and food items in playroom 2. Small world areas contained dolls, doll- houses, furniture and figures with toy tractors and farm animals provided reflecting the rural area the service was located in. The construction area in playroom 1 had a tool bench with an array of toy tools and the transport area held numerous vehicles and a transport mat.

Age-appropriate books were accessible beside the soft furnishings in the rest area in playroom 1.

Numerous tabletop toys and activities were provided for example the jigsaws that children were observed to play with on the inspector's arrival to the service. Opportunities for messy play were provided for example through the sand table in playroom 1, with aprons provided to protect children's clothes when playing. Both playrooms had art and craft supplies and there was an art easel set up in playroom 1 for children to paint if they wished.

The toys and play items were stored and displayed in low level storage areas to allow easy access by the children allowing them choice and control over play activities.

A small sensory room had been developed with a sensory tent and sensory lighting but was not used during the inspection.

The service was in the process of a quality improvement initiative with Better Start in relation to development of the small enclosed outdoor play area with concrete ground cover accessible from playroom 2. At the time of inspection, this area had a storage shed with numerous ride- on toys, scooters and a toy tool bench. The outdoor area had a mud kitchen and a small gravel area that the staff informed the inspector the children played in using spades and buckets.

The toys and play items were well maintained with up-to-date cleaning schedules and records available for them.

Tables and chairs were appropriate for the age and developmental stages of the children using them, with adult seating provided.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

Staff members informed the inspector that the children bring in enough food from home for two meals during the day with perishable items stored in the service’s refrigerator on arrival. The service had organised a ‘Teddy Bears picnic’ in the service on the day with fresh fruit smoothie drinks and toast with butter and jam prepared for the children by the staff. The children ate their morning meal picnic-style sitting on coloured plastic sheets placed on the ground in playroom 2 supervised by the staff. The children were observed to also enjoy a range of healthy and nutritious foods such as sandwiches, wraps, cheese, yogurts and a range of fruit provided from home.

Children’s lunchboxes were adequately stocked with healthy foods and there was enough food remaining for the afternoon snack for the children that stayed in the service for parttime care. The staff informed the inspector that information on the service’s healthy eating policy was provided to parents at enrolment.

Each child had an individual drink container that was accessible and available to them throughout the day.

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.*

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

- (c) an authorised person.*

- (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 monthly fire drills undertaken in the service were kept by the staff. Records showed that the last fire drill was undertaken on the 22 January 2026.
- (b) Records were available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. The records showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 18 February 2026 and the smoke alarms were last maintained on 22 October 2025.
- (2) (c) The fire records were made available by staff to the inspector on request.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire with maps of escape plan were clearly displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A certificate of insurance was displayed in the entrance hallway valid until the 27 March 2026 for a maximum of 22 children registered in the service.