

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015OY023		
Name of Service:	Pullough Community Pre-School		
Address of Service:	Dernagun, Pullough, Tullamore, Co. Offaly		
Eircode:	R35 R6W6		
Name of Registered Provider:	Linda Delaney		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	05/02/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM NA
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore Co. Offaly R35K1W4		
Inspection undertaken by:	R Flynn		
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

Pullough Community Preschool is in the townland of Dernagun, in Co Offaly. The service operates on the grounds of the Pullough Community centre and offers sessional care to children aged between 2-6 years. The service operates from 09.30am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday. The preschool consists of a small entrance hall, one preschool room and a large indoor hall. A separate secure outdoor play area is located at the back of the grounds.

Staffing

The registered provider employs two adults in the service. There were two staff present on the day of inspection. The registered provider works directly with the children but was not present in the service on the day of inspection. The deputy person in charge facilitated the inspection on 05 February 2026.

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:

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b), (2) (a)(b)(c)(d), (4) – Management and recruitment,
- Regulation 11 (1)(3) – Staffing levels,
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) – Health, welfare and development of child,

- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,
- Regulation 25(1),(2)(a)(b)– First aid,
- Regulation 26(1)(a)(b),(4)– Fire safety measures,
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.

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 deputy 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 and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)

The deputy person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Three staff files including the registered providers were reviewed and the following was noted:

(a)

Two written validated references were available from a previous employer.

(b)

Four written validated reference were available from a reputable source.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and the two staff members employed. In regard to the three staff members, the service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

The registered provider and the two staff members working directly with the pre-school children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education Level 5 to Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the preschool children on the day of inspection.

(3)

The ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of the inspection. There were twelve children attending the service being supervised directly by two adults.

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

(1) (a)

Basic needs

All snacks were provided by the service as part of the Bia Blasta scheme. Children were observed eating lunch with consisted of buttered toast, cheese sandwiches, cheese slices, crackers and a selection of yoghurts. Drinks of water and milk were available, and some children had their own drink bottles with water in their school bags. The children sat together at low level tables while eating and engaging in conversations with each other. Children were offered a choice of yoghurt and extra portions were available and offered.

Regular hand washing was observed as children washed their hands before meals, after toileting and as needed. Self-toileting was supported, and children were supervised as necessary.

Supporting relationships

Staff members were observed to be warm, kind and respectful towards the children in their care. Children were spoken to using their first names, appropriate eye contact was made, and soft vocal tones were used during interactions. A chart positioned at child's level titled 'Who is here Today?' identified which children were 'home' or at 'school'. A birthday chart and an 'our family wall' positioned at child level, displayed photographs of the children and their families. This helped the children feel connected to home. Written notes with children's observation and quotes were displayed on a notice board labelled 'Today I Noticed' such as '*I helped my granddad feed the birds*' and '*I'm writing my own name on my picture*'. A variety of children's seasonal art was displayed on the walls, for example, red cut out hearts for Valentine's Day and spring lambs. An 'Our Community' wall displayed pictures of the local church and priest, national school and the principal and the local shops.

Children were observed taking turns being the 'helper', handing out the plates and cups to the group for snack time.

Information and updates regarding the service are shared via an online application and at drop off and collection times.

Physical and material environment

The children were observed engaged, active and involved throughout the session as they chose between activities. Toys and play equipment were positioned at an accessible level on open shelving which nurtured independence, facilitated choice, and encouraged curiosity and spontaneous play. Children were observed engaged in tabletop activities such as playing with modelling dough. Areas which promoted role play were available such as a dress up area with a variety of costumes, and a play shop area with a phone and cash register. Children's language development was supported through one to one and group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed during the inspection. A range of books were available in the reading corner of the preschool room. A classroom Learning Journal was maintained which documented observations and learning for the children throughout the year such as 'harvesting', where the children picked vegetables they had sown in the vegetable patch in the outdoor garden.

A reading corner had a soft rug and large cushions for children who wished to take a break from activities. A separate hall, previously used as the hand ball alley is available for the children to play during inclement weather when they cannot go outside. The room offers additional space for gross motor activities and was equipped with a basketball hoop, trikes, bikes and wobble boards for energetic play.

A large fenced outdoor playground was located to the back of the community centre grounds.

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 service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. Cleaning products were noted to be stored in the kitchen area and were inaccessible to the children. The service had access to an outdoor play area located on the grounds of the community centre. The outdoor play area was secured with a large metal fence and had a locked gate to prevent unauthorised access when not in use by the preschool.

Infection Control:

Liquid hand soap and warm water were available for hand washing. Paper hand towels were accessible to children from wall mounted dispensers. The children were supported to wash their hands before meals and after using the bathroom. Pedal bins were available in the preschool room and sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal

of waste. Mechanical ventilation was in place in the sanitary accommodation as well as openable windows. The preschool room and hall were well-ventilated with openable windows.

Administration of Medication:

Staff were familiar with the procedure of administration of medication if required by a child. The deputy person in charge informed the inspector that no child attending the service was on specific medication. Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature and was stored safely in the kitchen area of the preschool. No medication was administered on the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits on the premises were easily recognisable and unobstructed. The fire assembly point was located to the front of the premises on the grounds of the local community sports pitch.

Outing:

A policy was in place to support outings conducted by the service. During discussion with staff, they advised that the children participate in an outing at the end of the preschool year. Risk assessments and consent forms were completed and documented for previous outings undertaken.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The premises was not secure on the day of inspection to prevent unauthorised entry. It was observed at collection time, parents entered the service unnoticed while the children and staff were in the large hall at the back of the preschool room.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

A doorbell has been fitted on the lobby side of the inner entrance for parents/guardians to alert staff of their arrival. Speakers will play the doorbell in different rooms inside the service. A staff meeting was held, and all staff were reminded of their responsibilities with regard to keeping the inner entrance door locked during the session. Parents/guardians have been informed verbally and via text message to use the doorbell and a staff member will bring their child out to meet them. The collection policy has been updated.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photograph of new bell system included.

Updated Policy received.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has 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)

Two staff members were qualified in First Aid response (FAR). A staff member qualified in FAR was available on the premises during the operational hours of the service.

(2)(a) (b)

A suitably equipped first aid box was located on a shelf in the preschool room and accessible to adults caring for children in 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 completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was recorded on 29 January 2026.

(b)

Records were kept of the maintenance of the firefighting equipment which was last serviced on 19 September 2025.

The smoke alarm system in the premises was last serviced on 24 November 2025.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was 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

There was evidence of current insurance cover for twenty-two children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27 March 2026.