

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015RN013		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Early Days Playschool		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Cloonakilla, Bealnamulla, Athlone, Co. Roscommon		
<b>Eircode:</b>	N37 PF84		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Deirdre Earle		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	11/09/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM N/a

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Year's Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A. Kennedy
<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
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### Description of service

This privately operated detached early learning and care service is at the rear of the registered provider's home, in a rural location called Cloonakilla, near the town of Athlone, Co. Roscommon. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care and sessional programme from 9.15hrs to 12.15hrs, from Monday to Friday. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years of age. There is one playroom and adjacent sanitary areas. There is a quiet rest area with child size seating and soft matting available for children to rest or opt out of an activity if he/ she wishes to do so. There are secure outdoor play areas to the front and side of the pre-school premises for children's play. There is an outdoor all weather sheltered area which is used during inclement weather.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service daily. Two staff including the registered provider work in the service and hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 7, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. Two relief staff are available to cover in event of staff absence.

### 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 regulation 9,11,15,23,25,26 and 28. The inspection may also focus on other regulations as required.

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 registered provider, 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.*

*(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 there was a named person available to deputize in the service.

(b) The registered provider was the person in charge and on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

Documentary evidence indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

The four staff files were reviewed.

(2)(a) & (b) Eight of the eight validated written references on file in respect of the four staff, were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the four staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Documentary evidence indicated that none of the staff had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years, and thereby did not require police vetting.

(4) The two staff working directly with the children and the two-relief staff had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 7, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

## 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.*

*(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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(2) Documentary evidence in the form of staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to. On the morning of the inspection, there were 20 pre-school children present. All children were aged between 2 years and 9 months to 4 years and eight months. There were two staff directly caring for these children.

(3) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

## 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.*

*(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.*

*(5) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h) &(i)

Ten children's records were sampled and reviewed by the early year's inspector.

The ten records reviewed showed that the entries were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The sampled children's records contained the following:-

- The name and date of birth of the child.
- The date in which the child first commenced in the service.
- The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).
- The name and address of the child's parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.
- Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.
- Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.
- The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
- A record of any immunisations the child has had.
- Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was / is an emergency.

(4) & (5) The registered provider advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that all relevant children's records were kept for 2 years from the date a child stops attending 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.*

### Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

- The main door to the premises and the staff only areas (including the registered providers home) were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play areas were secure so that children could not leave the areas unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors were unobstructed.

- All cleaning agents were stored on high shelves and inaccessible to the children.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were secured and or inaccessible to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- There were visibility stickers on the main door as a safety precaution.
- The playroom temperatures were thermostatically controlled, and maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- Openable windows were high and thereby inaccessible to the children.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- The staff clearly identified to the early year's inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- There were no pits or ponds in the designated outdoor areas to cause any risk of injury to the pre-school child.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all the children, attending the pre-school.

### Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposal paper towels.
- The children were observed washing their hands after toileting, after messy play, outdoor play and prior to their snacks.
- The tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray.
- The playroom was kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playroom.
- The service had a cleaning templates and schedules.
- A refrigerator was provided for the storage of perishable foods.

### Administration of Medication:

- The staff advised that currently there was no child on medication. The staff were familiar with the medication administration policy of the service if medication needed to be administered.

### Fire Safety:

- All exit routes from the service were free from obstruction during the 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) Two staff working in the pre-school service had certification of first aid training for children.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position.

(b) The first aid box was readily available, with content items within date.

## 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 record of fire drills was maintained on the premises and it was noted that the last monthly fire drill was recorded as conducted on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.

(b) A record of maintenance of firefighting equipment confirmed that an annual service was conducted on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 and the fire alarm was serviced on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in the preschool room

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service had insurance with an expiry date 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2026, which was for a sessional service for 22 children and included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision