

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN021		
Name of Service:	Greenfields Childcare		
Address of Service:	Marian House, Lisnamult, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon		
Eircode:	F42 NN72		
Name of Registered Provider:	Anthony Doolan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	05/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM n/a
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon,		
Inspection undertaken by:	A Kennedy		
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	Non-Applicable		

Description of service

This sessional service is located in a housing estate on the outskirts of Roscommon town. A service is provided to children aged between 2 to 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year between 09:00hrs and 12md. The premises is a converted semi-detached building with one room provided as a preschool service with sanitary accommodation and a kitchenette provided on the ground floor and an additional room and storage space is provided on the first floor.

Staffing

There were two adults working directly with the children on the day of the inspection. Relief staff are available to provide cover for staff breaks and in event of staff absence. The registered provider does not work 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 Regulations 9,11,15,18,23 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, 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, 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 and a named person to deputise in the service.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.
- Staff roster indicated that either the designated person in charge or the deputy were available on the premises at all times, when preschool children were present.
- (2)(a)(b) Six of the six written validated references on file in respect of the three staff, were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the three staff.
- The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable as none of the staff had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period in excess of six months.
- (4) The three staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education. One of the staff holds a level 9 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.*
- (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 person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (3) Documentary evidence in the staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.
- (8) On the morning of the inspection, there were ten pre-school children aged between 3 years to 4 years. There were two staff working directly with 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.*

(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 reviewed by the early year's inspectors.

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

The ten children's records contained the following: -

- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) The date in which the child first commenced in the service.
- (c) The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).
- (d) 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.
- (e) Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.

(f) 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.

(g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.

(h) A record of any immunisations the child has had.

(i) 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 person in charge 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 IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

A copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations was available on the notice board and available for parents, guardians, employees, unpaid workers, contractors, and authorised persons.

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 entrance doors were secured to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The external play areas to the rear of the premises and the sensory play area to the front of

the premises were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.

- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- 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 temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Blind cords were securely fastened thereby preventing any potential risk. Windows had restrictive access devices as a safety precaution.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all the children attending the service.

Infection Control:

- The children were observed washing their hands after toileting, outdoor play, messy play and after blowing their noses.
- The children washed their hands under supervision prior to consuming their snacks
- Suitable hand washing facilities were provided with supplies of liquid soap.
- The playroom had cleaning products stored out of child reach and foot operated lidded bins.
- The pre-school room and sanitary area were well ventilated with the windows open throughout the inspection.
- Tabletops were cleaned immediately prior to children's snack break.
- Mouthed toys were removed after use and sterilised appropriately. The adults were observed regularly washing their hands including after disposing of tissues into bins.
- Fixtures, fittings and play resources were observed to be in a hygienic condition. The adults showed awareness of the services procedures including the management of suspected infection when questioned.
- A refrigerator was provided for the storage of perishable foods.
- There were cleaning schedules and records for the playrooms and sanitary areas.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playrooms.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Medicines examined were within date.

- 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.

Outing:

- There were no outings on the day of the inspection, however when asked, the staff were aware of the requirements and had a clear understanding of the outings policy and procedure.

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

The service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. One staff had within the service had current training in first aid for children and ten staff from the adjoining premises had current training in first aid for children

(2)(a) In the kitchenette, there was a first aid box with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible by the adults and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b)The service demonstrated that the first aid box was 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 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 17th of June 2025.

It was advised by the person in charge that a fire drill would be carried out later in the month when the children settled in their preschool environment.

(b) A record of maintenance of firefighting equipment confirmed that an annual service was conducted on the 17th of June and the fire alarm was serviced on the 10th of February 2025.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in the lobby area adjoining the kitchenette.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service's insurance with an expiry date of 27th of March 2026 covered the following,

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