

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN030				
Name of Service:	Kilronan Community Pre-school				
Address of Service:	Alderford, Ballyfarnon, Boyle, Co. Roscommon				
Eircode:	F52PK76				
Name of Registered Provider:	Sarah Daly				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	17/01/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>16</td> <td>PM</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> </table>	AM	16	PM	n/a
AM	16	PM	n/a		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. 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	Not applicable

Description of service

Kilronan community playschool is registered as a community based sessional service. It operates from a detached prefabricated unit, on the grounds of St Patrick's national school, Ballyfarnon, Co. Roscommon. There is a main playroom and adjacent sanitary areas. There is a secure designated outdoor play area to the front of the premises. The service is registered to provide a sessional service for children aged two to six years. The hours of operation are from 09.00 to 12:00hrs Monday to Friday and operates for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

The registered provider works three days per week in the service. There is a designated person in charge and a named deputy person. There are five staff employed in the service with three staff in attendance on a daily basis. The five staff hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualification Framework, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. On the day of inspection, there were three staff working in the premises.

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 an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 (1) (a) (b) (c), (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) and (4). Regulation 11, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) 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, 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 person in charge and a person available to deputise as required.

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

(2)(a) (b) Five staff files were reviewed.

Ten validated past employer references were available for the five adults employed in the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for five staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) One adult of the five files reviewed had the required international police vetting where an adult had resided in a state other than Ireland for over six consecutive months.

(4) The five staff who work directly with the children, had evidence of a childcare qualification to 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Two of the staff had worked outside the jurisdiction, for six months or more, while over the age of 18 years of age, and did not have the required police vetting's for those jurisdictions.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

On 6th of March the designated person in charge submitted a written response to the office of the early years inspectorate to advise

(2)(d) One of the staff has obtained the police vetting and the second adult has applied for the vetting and is awaiting receipt of same

A check list has been created to ensure that police checks are not missed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence was submitted of the police vetting for one staff and proof of application for the second staff member.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 9 has 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) 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 form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.

On the morning of the inspection, there were sixteen pre-school children aged between 2 years and 9 months to 4 years and 6 months. There were three staff working directly with the 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

- Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snacks without being rushed. The children consumed their snack in the playroom. The atmosphere during snack time was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- The staff responded to children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to toileting. The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. Staff encouraged and supported children to become more independent in toileting practices. It was advised on

inspection that three children attending the session wore nappies and were changed on a regular basis. The privacy and dignity of a child having their nappy changed was maintained.

- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence, and to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move freely to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.
- The service supported the children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with staff.

For example, by:

- assigning a key person to each child;
- showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust;
- being actively involved in children’s play, where appropriate (initiating games, joining in when invited to by children);
- behaving in a way that creates a positive atmosphere (having frequent social conversations, joint laughter and showing affection);
- listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children’s cues, gestures and body language;
- encouraging children to think critically, ask questions and respond to them in a way that promotes sustained shared thinking; nurturing and comforting children;
- using soft tones, the child’s individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact.
- The atmosphere in the indoor and outdoor learning environments were encouraging and unhurried.
 - The children were observed at play in the outdoor play area located to the front of the pre-school. The ground surface was covered by a combination of impact absorbing, artificial grass, and pebble surfaces.
 - There was a sand play area with buckets, shovels sieves, containers, and utensils. There were large play blocks, shapes and balancing beams. There was a water basin with utensils. There was a mud kitchen, inset tyres, a house, a wooden tepee, 2 picnic tables, foam numbers / shapes, and an enclosed all weather sheltered area with an easel / blackboard.
 - There was a large activity centre / tree house with a ladder, climbing frame, viewing station and slide. There was a raised planting area.
 - The children were supported to be confident about their identity and to have a strong sense of belonging each day while in the service.

- Children engaged in playing house / shop, matching cards, connecting, at construction, stacking, building, puzzle making, peg play, at dress up, role play, and imaginative play. There was also circle/story time with the children practicing their songs and nursery rhymes.
- On speaking with staff, the inspector was informed that they verbally provide parents and guardians with daily information on their child's experiences in the pre-school including the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. This information was provided at collection times, by text messages, by phone calls, and by email.
- Staff adjusted the level of support provided to children depending on the child's abilities, allowing for children's partial participation and participation with support.
- The staff listened to children in a caring, gentle way when they expressed emotions, and reassured them that it is normal to experience positive and negative emotions at times.
- The staff acknowledged and accepted children's feelings (positive and negative) and the relationships between children's actions and other's responses.
- The staff supported children to enter social groups, and to learn to help and positively engage with other children. The staff encouraged and praised children for specific, positive, and appropriate behaviours.
- The staff were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them, and talking to the children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling, and commentating, extending a child's activities and initiating games and activities.
- Staff used positive strategies to support children's inclusion. For example, the inspector noted that the staff acknowledged a child's engagement in an activity 'that is great' 'well done' and used open ended questions such as 'what should we do next?', 'is there any other way to do this?', to allow children to critically think and explore.

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:

- Waste disposal facilities were inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The entrance door of the pre-school service was secured on arrival to the service and remained secured throughout the inspection thus preventing children from exiting and unauthorised persons from entering the premises.
- A lock was provided on the gate in the outdoor area to prevent a child from exiting and unauthorised person from entering the area.
- Cleaning products were stored in a high shelf in the lobby area which was inaccessible to the preschool children.
- 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.
- The window openings in the playroom were high and thereby inaccessible to the children.
- There were no trailing flexes in the service.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all of children attending the service.
- A staff member accompanied children to the sanitary area to ensure child safety.
- The fire exit routes in the playroom and the hallway were free from obstruction.
- Toys and play equipment were non-toxic and in good condition.
- The staff clearly identified to the early year's inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.

Infection Control:

- The inspector observed that the children washed their hands regularly throughout the inspection to include, prior to consuming snack, after outdoor play and after toileting.
- Suitable hand washing facilities were provided with supplies of liquid soap.
- The playroom and sanitary accommodations had foot operated lidded bins.

- The pre-school room and sanitary areas were well ventilated with the windows open throughout the inspection.
- Tabletops were cleaned immediately prior to children's snack break.

Administration of Medication:

- There were no medications administered to the children on the day of the inspection.
- The staff demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regards to the safe storage and administration of medication should it be required.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out on the premises to ensure the children were familiar with the procedure in event of an emergency.
- All exit routes from the service were free from obstruction during the inspection

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The metal legs and the frame of the sand tray in the outdoor area was rusty with evidence of chipped paint which could be a potential risk of injury to a child.

Infection Control:

2. The bin provided for the disposal of nappies was not foot operated to prevent the risk of cross contamination.
3. In the sheltered space of the outdoor play area, a couch had evidence of being frayed and torn and a wooden seating bench was worn with evidence of chipped paint, thereby preventing effective cleaning.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

On 6th of March 2025 the designated person in charge submitted a written response to the office of the early years inspectorate to advise

General Safety:

1. The legs of the sand pit were sanded down, cleaned and repainted with metal paint. The sand tray has been added to the cleaning schedule.
Toys and equipment will be inspected weekly. Any broken toys will be removed.

Infection Control:

2. A foot operated bin replaced the existing nappy bin. The person in charge will ensure that the correct bin is in used to avoid cross contamination.

- The frayed part of the couch was sealed with tape and the wooden seating bench has been sanded down, cleaned and repainted. These have been added to the cleaning schedule. Toys and equipment will be inspected weekly. Any broken toys will be removed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted to the office of the early year's inspectorate of

General Safety:

- The repainted metal legs on the sand tray.
- A new foot operated bin for the disposal of nappies.

Infection Control:

- The repaired couch and the newly painted seating bench.
The revised cleaning schedule.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 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) Three staff members had up to date First Aid Responder training with an expiry of 25th of July 2025.

(2)(a)(b) The first aid box was stored on a high shelf in the lobby/reception area, clearly labelled and inaccessible to the children.

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 16^h of January 2025.
- (b) A record of maintenance of firefighting equipment confirmed that the extinguishers were serviced on 20th of November 2024 and the fire detection system was serviced in November 2024
- (4) A notice of the procedure 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

There was evidence of certification of adequate insurance which had an expiry date 27th of March 2025.

The insurance for 22 pre-school children was for a sessional service, included the following: -

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

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(a) The premises appeared to be of a sound and stable structure on the day of inspection with no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings.

Windows and doors were in a good state of repair and appeared to be both watertight and weather tight when closed.

(b) The outdoor play area was safely secured with a combination of fencing and a gate at the rear of the premises to guard against unauthorised access.

The service was connected to both the public drainage and water supply.

(c) The openable windows in the room in the service and ceiling mounted light fittings which were covered with shatter proof diffusers ensures a good mix of natural and artificial lighting and ventilation in the premises.

(d) The walls in the room in the service and the floor covering throughout the premises were clean and well maintained

(e) Two separate toilets and two wash hand basins provided adequate sanitary accommodation for a maximum of 22 children in daily attendance in the service at any one time.

A wall mounted nappy changing unit and a dedicated wash hand basin was provided for nappy changing.

A separate toilet and wash hand basin was provided for staff use.

Wash hand basins were serviced with thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels.

Openable windows provided ventilation in both the children's and staff toilet areas.