

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015RN032
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Lean ar Aghaidh Resource Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Brothers of Charity, Roxboro, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
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<b>Eircode:</b>	F42 RD21
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Margaret Hannon
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	22/05/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	2	PM	1
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, 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 service provides a preschool service for children referred by the Children’s Disability Network teams from mid and south Roscommon.

This pre-school service is in a detached premises in the townland of Roxboro, on the outskirts of Roscommon town. The service offers a sessional care programme from 9.30hrs to 12.30hrs, from Monday to Friday.

An additional two-hour programme from 12.45hrs to 15.15hrs is offered from Monday to Thursday. The pre-school caters for a maximum of 12 children at any one time, between 3 years to 6 years of age. The service consists of five playrooms namely the Rainbow room, the Garden room, the Sensory room, the Physical Exercise Gross Motor room and the messy playroom. Quiet rest areas with child size seating are available for children to rest or opt out of an activity if he/ she wishes to do so. There is a secure outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. A child centred curriculum focusing on emerging interests is provided.

### Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises on a daily basis. There is a team leader who is the person in charge. There are ten staff working on the premises and the service also has a designated driver.

### 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.

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, 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, 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 deputise in the service.

(b) The deputy person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, at all times when the pre-school children were present.

(c) Staff rosters indicated that there was a clear management structure in the service, that identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2) All staff files were reviewed.

(a)&(b) Twenty-four written validated references, on file for the twelve adults, were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.

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

(d) Two adults had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period over 6 months over the age of 18 years and had the required police vetting.

(4) Five of the staff held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Six staff hold a nursing qualification with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. Copies of qualifications were on file for the eleven staff.

### 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)(a) At all times during the period of the inspection, the deputy person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (3) Documentary evidence in the form of staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to. On the morning of the inspection, there were two pre-school children aged between 3 to 5 years. There were five staff working directly with the children. Additionally, the deputy person in charged performed administrative duties and a service manager was on site prior to the departure of the inspector.
- (8)(c) The person in charge ensured that there were two staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

### 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

- The staff supervised, encouraged, and supported the children to be as independent, as possible.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- On the morning session, one child wore pull ups and was in the process of been toilet trained. The child was changed with dignity and privacy by a staff member.
- The second child had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet.
- Staff use the correct language surrounding toileting and nappy changing.

- The children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.
- The children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors.
- The service supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by
  - assigning a key person / staff member 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 child),
  - 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,
  - using soft tones, the child’s individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact,
  - providing opportunities for individual and small group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging,
  - providing opportunities for the children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute to projects and tasks,
  - working with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child’s interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.
- Parents/guardians signed a parental agreement form and received copies of the updated policies, and procedures Individual behaviour plans were devised for each child and shared with the parents/guardians.
- On speaking with staff, the inspector was informed that they verbally provided parents 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 and via text messages, by phone calls, by email. The service offered a newsletter and individualised parent staff meetings.
- The staff created individual journal with a child’s activities and photographs. The staff used a social media application and a social media page to advise of forthcoming events.
- Staff collated ‘goal plans’ reflecting each child’s developmental delays / persistent challenges in their self-care, independence, communication skills and in the management of the child’s feelings. Staff advised of their priority to build the capacity of families to have their child’s care needs acknowledged and

supported. For children with complex needs the staff also collated medical care plans to support individual programmes of care / goals and alongside aims / goals from therapist.

- 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.
- The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences. The inspector noted staff acknowledged a child’s achievements ‘that is great’ ‘well done’ and used questions such as ‘what should we do next?’ ‘is there any other way to do this?’, to allow children transition time and to critically think and explore.
- On the day of the inspection, staff showed kindness - were caring, supportive and reassuring whilst caring for the children.
- They cared for children by providing one to one support while the children engaged in free play, outdoor play, messy play, puzzle time, chill relaxation time, and creative play.
- A climate was fostered where the children knew their boundaries.
- 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 children were given positive alternatives, rather than just being told ‘no’. Children were supported in preventing, managing, and resolving conflict.

### 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

- There was a healthy eating policy.in the service and from observation, there was evidence that the foods consumed were adequate, nutritious, and varied.
- The adults advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by ongoing staff training, visual aids and adherence to best practice guidelines.
- There was a designated fridge in the rainbow room for the safe storage of perishable foodstuffs from the children’s lunch boxes, for their snack times.

- Children’s own beakers with clean and safe drinking water were at drinks stations for the child to self-serve or easily access under supervision.
- Cutlery and plates were available if required.

### 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 door was secure to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The external play area to the rear 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 temperatures were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Blind cords were securely fastened thereby preventing any potential risk.
- 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:

- Children were observed washing their hands after toileting / nappy changing, after messy play and before consuming their snack.
- The children’s belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and in designated storage containers.
- The children’s barrier creams were clearly individually labelled and stored within the sanitary areas
- The nappy changing area had a leak-proof, sealable airtight container for the disposal of nappies/pull ups.
- The nappy changing policy was displayed on the wall of the nappy changing area.
- There were cleaning schedules and records for the playrooms, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas and on the cleaning and disinfection procedure undertaken in the service.
- Tabletops, and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray.

- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Each playroom had a supply of disposable tissues, hand sanitiser, cleaning products, personal protective equipment and separate foot operated lidded bins for disposal of general waste.
- Each room had a bin for mouthed toys, and these were removed immediately after use and sterilised appropriately.

### Administration of Medication:

- There were no medications administered to children on the day of the inspection.
- It was advised that two staff are responsible for the administering of medicine and the staff demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regards to the safe storage and administration of medication should it be required.

### Fire Safety:

- The emergency exits were observed to be free from obstructions at all times 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) 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. Ten staff had current training in first aid for children.

(2)(a) There were two first aid bags / boxes with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid bags / boxes were 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 firefighting 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 dated 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2024. The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2025<sup>h</sup>
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises

## 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 of 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2025.

The insurance included the following: -

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