

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015RN050				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tangier Tots				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Tangier, Boyle, Co. Roscommon				
<b>Eircode:</b>	F52 KF60				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Michelle Caldbeck McGrath				
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	14/07/2025				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>19</td> <td>PM</td> <td>19</td> </tr> </table>	AM	19	PM	19
AM	19	PM	19		

<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>	M Farrell
<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
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Tangier Tots is a privately operated childcare service in Boyle, Co Roscommon. The service is registered to provide full day, parttime and sessional services to children aged from 0 to 6 years of age between 8:00 to 18:00 hours. The premises is a purpose-built building with four playrooms, a sleep room, kitchen, office and sanitary facilities provided an enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the building. Two of the playrooms named the Penguin and Sunshine playrooms were temporarily closed for the summer with the children cared for in the Rainbow and Moonbeam playrooms during the inspection.

### Staffing

There are nine staff in the service including the registered provider who manages the service, childcare staff and a cook/cleaner.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 28 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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 registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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

(2)

It was confirmed with the registered provider following review of documents and discussion with staff that there were 9 adults in the service. The following vetting documentation and qualifications were available for the 9 adults:

- (a) Two written validated references from past employers in particular the most recent employers for four adults and one written validated reference from a past employer for four adults.
  - (b) Two written validated references from sources other than a past employer for one adult and one written validated reference from another source for four adults.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 9 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) International police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside of the State for more than six months as adults.
- (4) Evidence of the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent was made available for inspection for seven adults.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults worked directly with the children attending the pre-school service. There were four adults working directly with 17 children on the inspector's unannounced arrival to the service on the morning of the inspection. An additional two children arrived later in the morning bringing the total number of children present to 19. A fifth adult provided cover for staff breaks later in the day.
- (2) The Penguin playroom and Sunshine playroom were temporarily closed for the summer months. The minimum adult to child ratios were adhered to in the two playrooms that were in operation during the unannounced inspection as follows:
- Two adults cared for 10 children aged between 4 and 5 years in the Rainbow playroom.
  - Two adults cared for nine children aged from 2 ½ years to 4 years in the Moonbeam playroom.

### 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.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*  
*(c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

A random sample of ten children's records was selected for review by the inspector from the children currently attending the service.

(a) to (i)

The records for the ten children were found to contain the required details required under the regulation.

(3)

(c)

The registered provider made the children's records available to the inspector in the service on request.

### 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

The service had a rolling 3-week menu which was made available to parents. Breakfast was provided for children in the service, but the staff informed the inspector that no child had availed of it that day. The children had brought their mid-morning snacks containing items such as yoghurts, sandwiches and prepared fruits from home and stored them in refrigerators on arrival to the service. In the middle of the day a hot main meal of chicken curry with visible vegetables including onions, peppers and sweetcorn and rice was provided for the children. This meal was eaten in the playrooms with the children and staff sitting in groups at tables. The afternoon snack was planned to be ham and cheese sandwiches. Each child had a separate drink container which were accessible to the children during the day. The inspector observed that the drink containers were brought outside and made accessible to the children when the children from the Rainbow playroom played outdoors.

### 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 secured on the inspector's arrival to the service. The inspector was admitted by staff following production and review of identification documentation. The entrance doors were secured throughout the inspection with staff controlling access to the service. The gate to the outdoor area was secured throughout the inspection preventing children from leaving the outdoor area unnoticed. Cleaning products were stored on high shelves in storerooms out of reach of children. The toys and play equipment were in satisfactory condition.

##### Infection Control:

The staff prompted the children to wash their hands following playing outdoors. Warm water, liquid soap and paper towel was provided for handwashing and drying with age-appropriate picture prompts displayed for the children to follow. Foot pedal bins were provided for waste disposal. Disposable gloves and plastic aprons were available for nappy changes were needed. The staff were observed to clean down surfaces after use. Separate storage areas were provided for the storage of each child's personal belongings.

##### Administration of Medication:

The staff informed the inspector that none of the children required medication to be administered to them while in the service at the time of the inspection.

##### Safe Sleep:

All the children in attendance in the service during the inspection were aged over two years of age and none of the children required to sleep on the day. Stackable beds were available if a child needed to sleep. The sleep room located off the Penguin playroom that caters for the younger children in the service was closed for the summer months. The staff informed the inspector that observations of children's position, colour and breathing patterns are carried out at 10-minute intervals when they are sleeping/resting.

##### Fire Safety:

Emergency exits and routes were observed to be free from obstructions during the inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

- Three radiator covers were damaged with pinch points that could potentially cause an injury to a child in the Moonbeams playroom.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider advised in writing that:

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

The radiator covers have been repaired to remove any potential pinch points. A daily classroom safety checklist has been implemented to identify potential hazards and detect any equipment malfunctions before they pose a risk.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Copy of the daily safety checklist and photographs.

### Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been reviewed by the Inspectorate. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

## 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) Fire drills were conducted monthly in the service with electronic records of the fire drills kept by the staff. The most recent fire drill record showed that it was undertaken on the 19 June 2025.
- (b) The service kept a record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system. The records showed that the firefighting equipment was last maintained in August 2024 and the smoke alarm system on the 24 June 2025.

(2)

- (c) The records were made available to the inspector by the registered provider on request.

(4)

Notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

The staff supervised the children mainly by sight during the inspection however children used the toilet by themselves where possible but were in earshot of the adults should help be required. The staff moved around the outdoor area when supervising the children keeping them in their line of vision. The children from the Rainbow playroom formed a line when getting ready to return indoors after outdoor play and the staff counted the children to check that they were all present. The staff were observed to sit with the children when they were eating supervising them closely.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

A certificate of insurance covering the maximum number of 57 children registered to attend full day care services in the premises valid until the 27 March 2026 was available in the service.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

(d) The handle of a warm water tap on one of the sinks in the sanitary unit off the Moonbeams playroom was missing and required replacement. It is acknowledged that staff removed this sink from use by the children during the inspection.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider advised in writing that:

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The taps have been replaced and are fully functioning. A daily classroom safety checklist has been implemented to identify potential hazards and detect any equipment malfunctions before they pose a risk.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Copy of the daily safety checklist and photographs.

#### Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been reviewed by the Inspectorate and the regulatory non-compliance found on inspection has been adequately addressed.