

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY014
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Willisson Preschool
-------------------------	---------------------

Address of Service:	Willisson, Monastery Road, Roscrea, Co Tipperary
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	E53 RX65
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Carol Thompson
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	27/11/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	12
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	North Tipperary Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co Tipperary, E45A099
Inspection undertaken by:	L McGeeney
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	N/A
---------------------------------	-----

Description of service

This sessional service was established to provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old. The service operates two sessions per day: 8.50am – 11.50 am and 1pm – 4pm, Monday – Friday, for 38 weeks of the year. Places are funded under the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) for eligible children. The service is operated from a purpose-built extension to the registered providers home, located in a rural area outside the town of Roscrea in north Tipperary. The children have access to two activity rooms, sanitary accommodation areas and a large enclosed outdoor play area.

Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children in the service each day supported by at least two other staff per session. There are four staff in total employed in the service, including the registered provider and staff employed under the access and inclusion model (AIM). On the day of inspection there were also two childcare students on work placement 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 the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(1)(2)(4), 11(1)(3), 15(1)(3), 16(1)(3), 19(1)(b), 23, 24(1)(3) and 25(1)(2).

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a Pre-school Child.

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*

(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) The registered provider was the person in charge on a daily basis and there were named staff who could deputise when required.

(b) The registered provider or her deputies were present in the service while it was in operation.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider, it was determined that of the four staff employed in the service and two students on work placement, the registered provider and two staff members were employed at the time of the previous inspection in November 2023. The staff files of the registered provider, three members of staff and two childcare students were reviewed as part of the inspection process.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for each staff member working in the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member working in the service. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) The staff employed in the service held recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5 or 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting had not been carried out in respect of the childcare student who had lived outside the state for a period exceeding six consecutive months.

It is acknowledged that police vetting was subsequently acquired and sent to the offices of the early years inspectorate on 17 December 2025, by which time the student had finished their work placement.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Police vetting was difficult to acquire for the student but it was eventually attained. In future, police vetting will be acquired for students or staff who require it prior to their placement or employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of police vetting was received by the early years inspectorate on 17 December 2025.

Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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) There were 18 children aged between 3 and 5 years old being supervised by 2 staff on the morning of the inspection. There were 12 children aged between 2 years 10 months and 5 years old being supervised by 3 staff on the afternoon of the inspection.

(3) The adult to child ratio was maintained at greater than the minimum requirements of 1 adult to 11 children during both sessions. There were two childcare students present during both the morning and afternoon sessions who were not included in the adult to child ratios.

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 sample size of 12 completed registration forms were assessed as part of the inspection process. The registration forms contained the information required as detailed under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

(3)(c) The registration forms were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) The records required to be kept in writing in relation to the service as detailed under parts (a) – (k) of this regulation were available in the premises.

(3) The required records were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following practices were observed on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children:

The children's drink bottles were stored in baskets beside the door where they could be accessed by the children when required. The baskets made it easy for the drink bottles to be carried outside during outdoor play time.

The children enjoyed freedom of movement both indoors and outdoors. The indoor environment consisted of two activity rooms that the children could flow between during free play time. The outdoor play area was large and contained several interest areas and provided opportunities for the children to run, climb, swing, ride or push wheeled vehicles and toys, dig, balance, make art and engage in imaginative play.

The children sat together with the staff at the tables for snack time. Each child had a personalised placemat which they had made. The staff encouraged discussions and conversation during snack time. On the day of inspection the discussions linked to the theme of the week which was healthy eating and the children's food pyramid. The registered provider had sourced stickers, booklets and posters to give to the children and parents to support their knowledge of healthy eating.

A hand washing project was in process in the service, instigated and supervised by one of the childcare students as part of their training. The children were given stickers when they washed their hands as a reward and positive reinforcement of good practice regarding hand washing.

The service invited the children's parents, grandparents and childminders to get involved in the service by skill sharing such as storytelling, singing and ball skills/team sports. Each month had a theme and an opportunity for family engagement. The children also engaged in community outreach by making and sending Christmas cards to people living in the local aged care services and contributing to Christmas hampers for charity.

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 service was accessed by entering the back of the premises through a secured gate into the outdoor play area. The gate was kept secured while the service was in operation. There was a notice to parents to wait outside the gate until let in by a member of staff. This was to prevent children gaining unsupervised access to the roadway in front of the premises.

Staff checked that all gates into the outdoor play area were secured before the children went outside to play.

There was soft-fall matting under the climbing frames and swings.

Water for hand-washing was thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C. Hot water was 20°C on the day of inspection.

Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of the children.

Blind cords were secured to the window recess for safety.

Infection control:

The service had an infection prevention and control policy, including hand washing.

Hand washing was carried out by children and staff at appropriate times of the day such as before eating or handling food and after outdoor play, messy play and using the toilet or a tissue.

Pictorial hand washing instructions were displayed above each sink.

There was a hand washing sink in the outdoor area where children and staff washed their hands before entering the premises.

Administration of medication:

There was a policy regarding the administration of medication to children. None of the children were in receipt of medication at the time of the inspection. There was a care plan available in respect of one child to support staff to act promptly and correctly regarding the child's health needs.

Fire safety:

Fire doors were kept clear of obstruction.

Outing:

There was a policy regarding outings. The children were taken on several outings throughout the year.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Staff were responsible for recording the arrival and departure times of the children on the weekly attendance register.

(3)(a) Staff met all visitors to the service at the gate or the door before allowing them entry to the service if appropriate.

(b) A written record was maintained of all visitors to the service.

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) There were three staff who held current certification as first aid responders (FAR).

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available on a shelf in the main room of the service.

(b) The first aid box was available if required by a child attending the service.