

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY052
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Name of Service:	Scoil na Maighne Childcare
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Address of Service:	Moyne National School, Moyne Village, Thurles, Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E41 D6K3
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rachel O’Gorman
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	25/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	-
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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
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Description of service

This service was established to provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old. A registered school age care service is also provided. The pre-school service recently changed from sessional to part-time provision, operating Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm, for 38 weeks of the year. This includes a daily three-hour sessional service funded under the early childhood care and education scheme (ECCE) for eligible children that operates between 9am and 12pm.

The service is operated from a room in Moyne National School that was extended and redeveloped for the purpose of operating an early years service. The service has its own entrance door at the side of the premises and its own sanitary accommodation areas. The service consists of a large activity room with direct access to the school through a door from the room to the school corridor. The children have access to their own outdoor area and use of the school grounds when not in use by the school children.

Staffing

The registered provider works with the children in the service on a daily basis, supported by a second member of staff. Both staff hold recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education.

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).

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.*

(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 designated person in charge and there was a named person who could deputise in her absence.
- (b) The registered provider or her deputy 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 person in charge it was determined that of the two staff employed in the service, the registered provider had changed since the time of the previous inspection in December 2023. Both staff files 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.
- (d) Police vetting documentation was not required as neither of the staff had lived outside of the state for a period of six consecutive months or longer.
- (4) Staff held recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 two staff working directly with nine children on the morning of the inspection. All of the children attended on a sessional basis, that is, for up to three hours per day.

(3) The adult to child ratio on the day of inspection was 1 adult to 5 children which was greater than the minimum requirement of 1 adult to 11 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.

(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) The completed registration forms for the nine children enrolled in the service were reviewed as part of the inspection process. The forms included the required information as detailed under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

(3) The records 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 under parts (a) – (k) of this regulation were maintained in the service.

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

The children enjoyed freedom of movement both indoors and outdoors. The room was spacious and laid out in a number of well-defined areas which supported the children to play and explore according to their own interests and desires. On the morning of the inspection children were observed engaged in the following activities: relaxing in the cosy area with books and enjoying having a story read for them; playing with cars on the special interest tray table; playing with sand and making pictures with glue and crepe paper balls. The children enjoyed running in

the school yard after snack time and playing games such as kicking and throwing balls and making obstacle courses for the ball games.

The staff supported the children with transitions throughout the day by the use of simple prompts that the children understood. For example, when there was five minutes left of freeplay time, the staff prompted the children to say the rhyme 'I looked at the clock and what did it say? Five more minutes left to play'. Then when the five minutes had passed they all said 'I looked at the clock and what did it say? Time to tidy up our play.' The children responded by tidying up and getting ready for the next part of the day which was snack time.

The staff supervised the children during self-care activities such as washing their hands and dressing for the outdoors. The children were encouraged to be independent, with staff providing instruction or assistance when required.

The staff and children sat and ate together at snack time. The rectangular tables were placed together to create a table that was big enough for everyone to sit around. The staff assisted the children as required and helped to create a relaxed atmosphere by encouraging conversation and chatter.

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:

Staff and children entered the service through the entrance door at the side of the premises that opened into the school yard and play grounds. There were large windows in the outside walls and glass panels in the door which enabled staff to see who was seeking entrance before opening the door to them. The door was kept secured to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

The children exited the premises through the front door of the school at home time. This process had been developed by the service to ensure that children could not leave the service unsupervised or gain access to the roadway in front of the school.

Staff checked that the gates into the school grounds were secured before the children were let outside to play. Staff also checked that there were no vehicles in the grounds or preparing to drive into the grounds. Hot water for hand washing was heated by electric water heaters that were thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C. Hot water on the day of inspection was between 25 and 26°C.

Infection control:

The service had an infection control policy which included hand washing. The staff and children were observed washing their hands at appropriate times during the day such as before eating, after using the toilet or a tissue and after messy play.

Administration of medication:

The service had a policy on the administration of medication. Signed parental consent was sought prior to any medication being given to a child. Medications were stored in their original container and out of reach of the children.

Fire safety:

Fire escape routes were kept clear of obstruction.

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, using a registration book designed for the purpose.

- (3)(a) Staff met all visitors to the service at the door before allowing them entry if appropriate.
- (b) A record was maintained of any 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) The registered provider held current certification in first aid response (FAR) valid until November 2027.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the pre-school room on a high shelf where it could be easily accessed when required.
- (b) The first aid box was available if required by a child while attending the service.