

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015TY085
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Ayle View Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ayle, Upperchurch, Oola, Co Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E34 D886
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Una O'Neill
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/08/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	14
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Antoinette McNamara
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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>	N/A
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### Description of service

Ayle View Creche offers full day care and sessional programmes five days per week, 50 weeks per year. The sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme is provided for 38 weeks per year. The service is registered to cater for children from 0 to 6 years of age. The service is also registered to provide school aged care. The premises is a detached single storey building adjacent to the registered provider's residence. It consists of three early years rooms, sanitary accommodation and a sleep room. There was a cabin to the rear of the premises for staff use. The outdoor area was to the rear and side of the premises. The service operates from 07:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

### Staffing

The service currently employs seven staff members. On the morning of inspection four staff work directly with children. The registered provider works directly with children in the service. Staff members held qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,  
Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, welfare, and development of the child,  
Regulation 22 Food and drink  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,  
Regulation 25 First aid,

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, 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) The registered provided is the person in charge. A named deputy designated person in charge is available to cover as required.

(b) The person in charge was present for the inspection.

The staff files for seven staff were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each staff member working at 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 available for one staff working in the service, who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above 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.*

*(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) There were enough adults to respond to children’s individual needs. There were 4 staff directly working with 14 children.

(2) The person in charge ensured that the adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the day of inspection.

### 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, and*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

##### Basic needs:

Staff ensured children’s water bottles were accessible to them on a low shelf/trolley. Children had access to their water bottles/beakers and were able to get a drink throughout the day.

The children who were able were encouraged and supported to manage their own level of personal care appropriate to their level of development. For example, children who were toilet trained were able to access the toilet throughout the day. Regular hand washing was observed by the children. A designated sleep room was

available to all children attending the service. The room was sufficiently dark to promote a restful sleep. Low-level floor beds were available to meet the sleep needs of children over 2 years of age.

### **Supporting relationships around children:**

The children benefitted from the very favourable adult to child ratios which enabled each child to receive as much individual attention and support as they needed.

The small group size supported the children to get to know each other well and to develop friendships within the group.

Staff members were observed to treat the children with respect and a positive regard. They sat with children in small groups or individually, engaged in conversation and listened attentively to the children as they spoke.

### **Physical and material environment:**

The indoor environment was warm, bright and well ventilated. A variety of defined areas of interest were provided for the children to play with. These included a kitchen, a wide range of books, a construction area, blackboards and building blocks. Low-level shelving provided children with access to a wide selection of activities, suitable for the stage of the children's development. Adequate space was available for children to engage in both floor and table play independently and in groups. Adult seating was available to facilitate staff sitting with children during the day.

Children's identity and belonging was fostered through the display of their arts and crafts and photos of the children partaking in activities throughout the year.

On the day of inspection, the children enjoyed outdoor play in the secure outdoor area. The outdoor play area had a variety of surfaces and resources to support the children's exploration of the outdoors. There was a covered area available and a wide variety of toys such as ride on toys, a messy play area, a sand pit and a small green house. Children used the outdoor space as often as they could weather permitting.

## 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

Foods eaten by the children were supplied by their parents and stored in a fridge. Children brought their own drink bottles which were stored on shelves in their room, where they could be accessed by the children when they wanted them. Bottles were refilled with water as required. Staff supervised the children during snack time to encouraging conversation and to help if needed, for example with opening lunch boxes. Foods eaten at snack time on morning of the inspection included: crackers, yogurts, sandwiches, soda bread, cheese and fruit.

## 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 door to the premises was locked and needed to be opened from the inside, therefore children could not exit the service unsupervised and unsupervised visitors could not enter. The outdoor area was secure to prevent children from leaving. Pinch guards covered the hinges on all doors to prevent injury to children. All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to children. Radiator covers were present on the radiators.

##### Infection control:

The service was clean and well maintained. Cots in the sleep room were positioned at least 50cm apart as required to ensure adequate ventilation around each cot and to prevent cross infection. Suitable handwashing and drying facilities were available in the sanitary facilities. This included warm running water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels. The children were observed to wash their hands when returning from outdoor play and before snack time. The nappy changing area had gloves and aprons available for staff. Foot pedal operated bins were also in use. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge.

### Administration of medication:

A medication record recorded the details of any medications that had been administered in the service in line with the service's administration of medication policy. Any medication supplied by parents was stored in a safe and secure place in their original packaging and out of reach of children.

### Safe sleep:

There was a designated sleep room in the premises for children to sleep during their attendance in the service. Three standard cots were provided, which were designated to individual children who required naps during their time spent in the service. A room thermometer was in operation to ensure that the room temperature was maintained between 16- 20°C. Floor beds were available for older children as required. Children were monitored while they slept, and physical checks were carried out at 10-minute intervals. These checks were recorded on individual sleep records for each child.

## 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 staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service.