

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015TY106
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Emly Playschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Tennis Club, Emly, Co Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E34 VK02
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sinead Purcell
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	25/02/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	N/A
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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

Emly Playschool is a sessional early years service located in the village of Emly on the Tipperary/Limerick border. The service provides an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from a room in a community premises known locally as the Tennis Club. The service is open from 09:00 to 12:00, Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year. The service has direct access to a large secure outdoor play area to the rear of the building and use of adjoining sports fields.

### Staffing

The service currently employs two staff members who work directly with children. The registered provider does not work directly with children in the service. Staff working directly with pre-school children held qualifications in Early Childhood Education 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)(3)(c) Staffing levels,

Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) (3) Records in relation to a pre-school child,

Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, welfare, and development of the child,  
Regulation 25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First aid  
Regulation 26 (1)(a)(b)(4) Fire safety

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, 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named deputy who was able to deputise, as required.

(b) A person in charge was present on the day of inspection. A person in charge was present daily.

The staff files for two staff, and the registered provider were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each person 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 everyone 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) Not applicable. Review of the curriculum vitae indicated that police vetting was not required.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working with pre-school children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at 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.*

*(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) The registered provider ensured that there were enough adults to respond to children's individual needs. There were 2 staff directly working with 15 children.
- (3) The person in charge ensured that the adult to children ratio was maintained. The service exceeded the minimum child to adult ratio required under the regulation.

### 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

A sample of 10 completed registration forms were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

- (1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation.
- (3)(c) The registration forms 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-

(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:

The available space within the care room supported the children to explore their environment and to freely engage with materials. Children had a wide selection of activities to choose from. Messy play was promoted in the service and staff reported this was done daily. Outdoor play was promoted and was also included as part of the daily programme of activities. A healthy eating policy was in place. Parents provided food for the children.

Perishable products were stored in the fridge. The children enjoyed healthy foodstuffs including fruit, crackers, yogurts and cheese and water to drink during snack time. Drinking water was freely available to the children whenever they needed it. At snack time the children were given different tasks to complete such as handing out the water bottles and lunches. This was rotated daily so all children got a turn. Staff sat with the children during snack time. Children were given as much time as needed to eat and were supported by staff if needed.

Independence was encouraged appropriate to each child's stage of development. The service had a supply of fresh fruit available to the children if they got hungry at any time during the day. The children were taught how to wash their hands and were supervised by the staff at hand washing times, such as after messy play, after using the toilet and before eating. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own level of personal care appropriate to their level of development. The toilets were accessible to the children directly off the classroom.

##### Physical and material environment:

The environment in the service was comfortable and inviting. The service had large windows to allow in natural light, some of the windows were low which allowed children to see out into the tennis courts. Children were given the opportunity for messy play. This was observed when the children were using sand and modelling clay. The service also had a home-made volcano that the children could play with. The volcano was due to explode the end of the week when all the children were present for the experiment. A nature table was also present in the service. There were further different areas of interest provided in the pre-school room. These included a kitchen area, a library area, small world toys, life skill boards, dolls and craft area. Low-level shelving provided children with

access to a wide selection of activities. Presses of other resources were also available for the rotation of materials. Children were observed to engage in painting if they wished to do so. Child size tables and chairs were available for tabletop work and eating. The notice board in the classroom displayed the weather and colours. A pictogram timetable was used so that the children could see the plan for the day.

The children had access to a secure tennis court and an astroturf surface in the GAA grounds. The service had its own designated outdoor space which was secure. There was a fairy garden, mud kitchen, shop, post office and ride on toys in the outdoor area. There was also a shed of outdoor resources available.

### Supporting relationships:

The children benefitted from 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 sat with the children and encouraged play. Children were given timely reminders of when to tidy up for a planned activity. Staff supported conversation and positive behaviour amongst the children.

## 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 Response (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.

## 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.*
- (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) There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 and staff advised that monthly fire drills were completed.
- (b) There was a record available demonstrating that the smoke alarm system was last serviced in April 2025 and the firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed in a conspicuous position on the premises.