

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY138
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Name of Service:	Nano's Nest Playschool
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Address of Service:	Presentation Primary School, Dungarvan Road, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E91 XF62
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Name of Registered Provider:	Vanessa Moriarty
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	05/03/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara
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Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

Nano's Nest Playschool is an early years service which is located in the Presentation primary school in Clonmel Co Tipperary. The service operates a sessional pre-school service from 08:45 to 12:15 and can accommodate up to 22 children aged 2 years 8 months to 6 years of age.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. There were four staff working in the service on the day of inspection. All staff hold recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5 or 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) Staffing levels,

Regulation 21 Equipment and materials

Regulation 22 Food and drink,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,

Regulation 25 First aid, and
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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

(4) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

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

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

(2) The staff files for five staff were reviewed on the day.

- (a) Two written and validated references were available for the five staff working at the service.
- (b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from other 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 qualification framework.

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.
- (3) During the morning session there were four staff directly working with 15 children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service consisted of one large playroom. The equipment and materials reviewed on inspection were well maintained. All materials were accessible to the children on low level shelving. There was a wide variety of toys such as building blocks, dolls, a home corner, dressing table, magnetic shapes, jigsaws, and a construction bench. There were child sized tables and chairs for tabletop activities such as puzzles and eating at snack time. At one end of the room was a large well stocked reading area and a child size couch. There were arts and craft materials available to the children. The children's arts and crafts decorated the walls. The service had learning plans which included learning themes such as Seachtain na Gaeilge. This was evident in the room with Irish language phrases and Irish flag crafts made by the children. The classroom was large enough to allow staff to move the tables so all the children could sit together and paint. The service had personalised coat hooks for each child attending the service.

There was an internal courtyard available to the children. The service had a covered outdoor area which had a wide range of materials such as a blackboard, outdoor kitchen, and benches. This area could also be closed off from the weather. The service also had access to the schools large outdoor area.

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 healthy eating policy. Parents supplied all foods. Healthy eating was promoted in the service. Healthy eating had been set as a learning theme in the weeks prior to the inspection. Children brought their own drink bottles which were stored on a shelf in their rooms. Children had access to their water bottles and were able to get a drink throughout the day. Bottles were refilled with water as required.

Foods eaten at snack time on morning of the inspection included: sandwiches, crackers, yogurts, and fruit.

Perishable foods were stored in a fridge in the service.

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 premises was adequately secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining access. The classroom for the service was located to the rear of a school. A call bell system was present on the main door into the school building which had to be opened by a staff member. The classroom door was also secured and had to be opened by a staff member. All blind cords were securely mounted out of reach of children. Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children. Accident and incident reports reviewed were maintained in line with the service policy. There was an outdoor courtyard that was used by the service was secure to prevent children leaving unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.

Infection control:

There were designated children's toilets available off the classroom. There was warm running water, liquid soap, hand dryers and paper hand towels available for hand washing throughout the service. There were hand washing and tissue use reminders displayed in the bathroom. There was a pedal bin for refuse available to the children. Children were observed washing their hands after toileting. Staff were observed washing down the classroom tables after free play. The tables were also covered with tablecloths prior to a painting activity. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge in the classroom.

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.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An in-date insurance certificate was available for inspection to demonstrate that valid insurance was in place.