

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WH022		
Name of Service:	Children of Lir Multyfarnham Children Services		
Address of Service:	The Old School, Donore Drive, Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath		
Eircode:	N91 XT88		
Name of Registered Provider:	Martin Tormey		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	04/11/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, SAP Office, St. Loman's Campus, Mullingar, Co Westmeath		
Inspection undertaken by:	C.O' Connor Hughes		
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	Not applicable.		

Description of service

This sessional service provides an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme to children aged 2 to 6 years from 09:30-12:30. The service operates on a Monday to Friday basis.

The service is located in an adapted former national school in Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath. The service consists of a large open plan playroom and an office. There is an outdoor play area at the back of the service.

Staffing

There are three staff employed in the service. The designated person in charge and two staff members were working directly with the children on the 4 November 2025. The registered provider does not work with children was not present 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.

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

Regulation 11 -Staffing levels - (1) (3)

Regulation 19- Health, welfare and development of child - (1)(a)

Regulation 20- Rest and Play Facilities

Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 24- Checking in and out and record of attendance (1)(3)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 25- First aid - (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 -Fire safety measures - (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28 – Insurance

Regulation 33- Furnishing of information to the Agency

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under

Regulation 29 Premises.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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)

A designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The designated person in charge was present for the duration of the inspection.

Four staff files including the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers in respect of the staff members. Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the four staff files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

- (d)
Police vetting was not required as none of the staff members had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)
The staff members working directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education 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)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (3)
There were eleven children attending the service being supervised directly by the designated person in charge and two staff members.

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,

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Children enjoyed a visit from the local Garda for " Irish Road Safety week " organised by the National Road Safety Authority. Children enjoyed listening to the Garda in the outdoor play area, having their photographs taken with the Garda and the Garda patrol car. A colouring book from the Garda National Community policing unit was given to children to take home after the ECCE session. Freedom of movement from the indoor and outdoor play environments was observed as children were happily engaged in various activities supported by staff.

Children were encouraged to be independent as they washed their hands and went to the toilet supported by staff. Reminders were given to children to use the toilet as needed. Staff encouraged children to be independent as they dressed for outdoor play. Children enjoyed their healthy snacks prepared by the parent which consisted of sandwiches, yoghurts and a selection of fruit and vegetables with water to drink. Children engaged in conversations with the staff and their friends as they all ate lunch together in the pre-school room.

Good communication was observed between staff and children as the staff used individual names, maintained eye contact and conversed with the children during play activities, toileting and at snack time. Children requiring extra support and supervision were assisted by staff members. Access and Inclusion plans were in place for children.

Good teamwork amongst staff was observed throughout the inspection.

A range of developmentally appropriate experiences to meet children's learning needs were available in the pre-school room. Areas of interest included a home area, dress up with a mirror, construction area, sand play, arts and crafts and a hair salon. Age and stage appropriate toys, materials and sensorial equipment were accessible to children on low level shelving. Children were observed to relax in the cosy rest area after snack time.

The designated person in charge stated regular updates and information are sent to parents via a short messaging service (SMS). The child's learning journal depicting the child's play and work activities are shared with parents at the end of the pre-school term.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Adequate and suitable play equipment and materials were provided in both the indoor and outdoor environments.

(b)

A large cosy couch with a library of books was available in the pre-school room for children to rest and relax.

(4)

The outdoor play area was safe and secure surrounded by a large wall. A large natural grass area was noted.

Toys and equipment included a large climbing frame with slides, mud kitchen, a playhouse, sand play, a climbing frame and tyres under the large natural trees.

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 entrance to the service was safe and secure. The front door to the service was locked which ensured no unauthorised access to the children. The inspector signed the visitors book on arrival. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

The premises was visually clean. All toys and materials were easily cleanable. Warm water, hand paper towels and liquid soap was available in the sanitary accommodation in the service. The temperature of the water recorded at the wash hand basins was 33.4 degrees Celsius. Natural ventilation was in operation in the sanitary accommodation. Foot operated pedal bins were noted in the pre-school room and in the sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste. A refrigerator was available for the storage of perishable foods. The fridge temperature was maintained within the correct limits was under 5 degrees Celsius.

Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available if a child presented with a high temperature. Medication was stored safely in a locked cupboard in the office. A health care plan was available for a child with a defined medical condition. Adults had completed anaphylaxis training and were familiar with the administration of the emergency medication if required.

Fire Safety:

The fire emergency exits were free from obstruction in the premises. A fire assembly point was noted in the outdoor area.

Outing:

The designated person in charge stated outings are not undertaken by the service

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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The records of arrival and departure reviewed verified that each child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by a staff member.

(3)(a)(b)

All entry to the service with the exception of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) was approved by a staff member.

(4)

Records indicated that the visitor log was retained for the required length of time in 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)

Three adults were qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available on the premises for the hours of operation.

All adults had participated in paediatric anaphylaxis training.

(2)(a)

An equipped first aid box was located in the pre-school room.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the pre-school 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 carried out in the service. The last fire drill was carried out on the 13 October 2025.

(b) A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in October 2025.

(4) Fire evacuation procedures were noted in a conspicuous location in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

Adults supervised children in the indoor and outdoor environments and when using the sanitary facilities during the inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27 March 2026.

Part IX - Inspection and Enforcement

Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.

Compliance Information

The registered provider furnished the required information during the inspection.

Additional risk identified

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Non-Compliance Information

(c)
Room occupancy temperature of 18 to 22 degrees Celsius was not maintained in the children's and staff sanitary accommodation.
At 11:00 the temperature of the children's sanitary accommodation was recorded at 15.3 degrees Celsius. It is acknowledged that upon the request of the inspector the person in charge took a corrective action and turned the electric radiator on in the children's sanitary accommodation.
At 12:00 the temperature of the sanitary accommodation was recorded at 16.6 degrees Celsius.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Additional electric blow heaters are kept on in the sanitary accommodation throughout the day.
Management had a plumber on site to cost the work needed to bring the oil heating to this area.
All of the above works are pending the cost and the availability of grants for the completion of this work.
Management have been in contact with the Enterprise Centre, Westmeath County Childcare Committee and the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment in relation to available funding and as soon as management have funding the works will be completed.
When all works are completed the issue will be resolved.

Supporting documentation submitted

Invoice for works to be completed.
Response from the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted are appropriate to address the non-compliances. The implementation of these actions will be reviewed on next inspection.