

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WH076		
Name of Service:	Precious Angels Pre-School		
Address of Service:	65 Raithin Eoghan, Ashe Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath		
Eircode:	N91 HH51		
Name of Registered Provider:	Marion Corbett, Valja McCabe		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	30/01/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM Not applicable
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co. Offaly R35K1W4		
Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain		
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

Precious Angels Pre-School is a privately operated sessional service located in a standalone, two-story, purpose-built premises in a residential housing estate on the outskirts of Mullingar. The service cares for children in the age range 2 to 6 years. The service is operational between the hours of 9.00am and 12.30pm. Children attending the service are divided into two groups, and have access to a separate playroom, art room and a fun room. A secure outdoor play area is provided at the back of the service. Additional rooms at ground floor level in the premises include a kitchen and a “mop room” to store cleaning agents and equipment.

Staffing

The service is staffed by seven adults which includes both registered providers. The registered providers work directly with the children in attendance 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The scope of the inspection included the rooms in use in the service.

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 providers, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 service had both a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)

Both the designated person in charge and the named person to deputise were present in the service on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Two written and validated references were held on file in respect of all staff working in the service.

(c)

A Garda vetting was held on file in respect of the registered providers and the staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff members.

(d)

A Police vetting disclosure was held on file in respect of one staff member who had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

Staff working in the service held a major award in Early childcare Care and Education, varying from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications 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)
An adequate number of adults cared for the children present in the service on the day of inspection.
- (3)
Seven adults cared for 31 children in attendance in the service on arrival of the inspector and for the duration of the 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)
Playroom 1.
- Children were observed to enjoy the morning snack provided by the service. The atmosphere during snack time was relaxed as children were offered pieces of fresh fruit including apple, pear, cut grapes, banana, homemade jam and crackers and cheese. Children were given time to take beakers for water and plastic plates to the tables and each child was also given enough time to enjoy their snack during pleasant interaction with their peers and the staff sitting at low level with the children. Staff were observed to support children to use the toilets

independently and to wash their hands. Children were observed to enjoy singing “snowdrops and daffodils” after completing their pictures of snowdrops.

A staff member was observed to engage the children by pausing to ask the children questions and give them time to answer during story time in the room. A staff member was observed to take cues from children and encouraged a child who displayed signs of tiredness to sit and relax during story time. Staff were observed to participate in the children’s activities as children sang songs, danced to music, and played hide and seek.

Playroom 2.

Morning snack served to the children included cucumber, orange, cut grapes, blueberries, banana, sweetcorn, crackers and cheese with water and milk to drink. After break time three staff members were observed sitting with separate groups of children who were observed enjoying building with blocks, using pasta for pouring activities and making jigsaws. Staff engaged in conversation with the children and were observed to support the children to both develop their interactions and friendships with each other and to learn from each other as they worked in their groups.

A variety of daily copy books, monthly folders, folders to take home at year end as well as an electronic communication application for parents to access and view the activities their individual children engaged in, were used in the service to share observations of childrens interests, strengths, developmental progress and care needs with parents. Folders in use also offered opportunity for review and future programme planning.

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 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)

All care rooms allocated for use by the two groups of children ensured that clear space was organised to allow children see the variety of toys and play equipment available in the service for child led play under adult supervision. Use of the rooms allowed children to move in groups and to vary activities prompted by childrens emerging interests. The toys and play equipment was located on low level open shelving and organised in a way to support children's play and learning. Home corners in playrooms were furnished with playhouses, cookers, hoovers, shopping trollies, dolls and prams. Doctors sets, tools set and dress up clothing was observed for pretend play. Black boards, chalks and a variety of paints, colours, shapes, stickers and moulding clay were available for arts and craft work. Puzzles, games, jigsaws, counting toys were provided for table top activities. Blocks of different sizes and dimensions, toys in wheels and miniature animals were noted for floor play. Low level tables and chairs were available for children to sit and play with their peers in small groups.

(b)

Soft furniture including large cushions, soft floor mats and blankets were provided for children to take a break from activities and rest as required. Books on low level shelving were provided to allow children to sit and relax and well as promote an early interest in reading.

(4)

The outdoor play area at the back of the service was surfaced with a combination of tarmac and an all-weather surface. Space was available to allow children run and engage in energetic play. Climbing frames, swings and a play house were observed outdoors. An open shelter was provided to permit play during both inclement and hot weather conditions. A shed outdoors provided storage for outdoors toys not in everyday use and toys for rotation outdoors. A daily outdoor timetable was in use in the service to ensure that children in both groups availed of daily outdoor play which was observed on the day of inspection.

The outdoor play area was safely and securely fenced in by timber fencing. Both open gable ends of the building were secured with high level timber gates to guard against both unauthorised access to the service and unsupervised exit of children when playing outdoors

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:

A key code was provided on both the front and back entrance doors to the service to guard against unauthorised access to the service during operational hours. The front entrance door to the service was secured with a key code system and a bell was provided to announce arrival and gain access to the service. Children could not gain access to cleaning products stored in the “mop room” as the key to gain entry to this room was stored at a height inaccessible to the children. Childrens coats were appropriately stored on wall hooks present in one playroom and in the hallway.

Infection Control:

The service employ a daily cleaning service which ensured that all rooms in the service were clean and well maintained. Toys and play equipment in the playrooms were observed to be clean and in a good state of repair. Sinks with hot and cold water were provided in both ECCE rooms to assist with cleaning. Children were observed to wash their hands under the supervision of staff before snack time in one of the playrooms. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, foot pedal operated bins and both disposable paper towel dispensers and hand air dryers were provided at wash handbasins in the children's and staff sanitary accommodation.

Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was held in storage in the kitchen in the service should a child present with a high temperature. No medication was administered on the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

Both the front and back door exits from the premises were clear and unobstructed. A fire assembly point was posted on a wall at the front of the building.

Outings:

The service had insurance cover for outings. Risk assessments were in place for outings conducted in the service including walks to the local fire station which was in keeping with the Outings policy for the service, which indicated that “risk assessments were carried out prior to the visit” when children were taken on outings. Signed parental consent for children to go on outings was included on childrens enrolment forms.

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 staff members working in the service had FAR (First Aid Responder Training) with an expiry date of 21 August 2027.

(2)(a)(b)

First aid boxes which were easily accessible and available to staff caring for the children attending the service were located for the 2 groups in their playroom.

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)

Records were held on site of fire drills undertaken at the service. The last monthly fire drill was conducted on 15 December 2025.

(b)

The maintenance record for the firefighting equipment confirmed that an annual service took place in December 2025. The maintenance record for the smoke alarm system confirmed that a service was last conducted in October 2025.

(4)

The procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was posted in the hallway in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 44 children in daily attendance in a Sessional service. Insurance cover was valid from 28 March 2025 to 27 March 2026.