

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX020		
Name of Service:	C.I.L.A. Preschool		
Address of Service:	St. Aidan's Services, Millands, Gorey, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y25 C9C5		
Name of Registered Provider:	Eimear Mannion		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	05/03/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	2	PM NA
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Ely Hospital, Ferrybank Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan & S. Early O'Brien		
Title:	Early Years Inspectors		
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

C.I.L.A Pre-school is an early years service for children with additional needs. It currently operates a sessional service 4 mornings a week from 09:30 to 13:00 for children aged 2 years 10 months to 6 years. The service is located within the grounds of St. Aidan's Day Centre in Gorey. The service supports therapy programmes recommended for each child by the multi-disciplinary team. The service consists of a playroom, toilet facilities suitable to meet the needs of children with additional requirements, staff toilet and storage facilities. The service has a designated outdoor play area with an all-weather surface to facilitate daily access which is safe and secure.

Staffing

There are four staff working in the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the playroom with the children. All the staff working directly with the children in the service held the minimum QQI level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education. One staff member working in the service is a registered General and Children's nurse.

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) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),
Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of child,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).
Regulation 29 Premises and
Regulation 30 Minimum space requirements.

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 inspectors wish 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)(b)

On the day of the inspection the manager was the designated person in charge of the service. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The staff files for four staff working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were not required as none of the staff had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

Certificates of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the preschool children were available on file.

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)(2)

Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service. In the morning there were two children in the care of two staff.

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

Basic Needs

Heathy eating was promoted in the service and children bring their own lunch from home for morning snack time in the ECCE session. Water was available to the children from their own bottles which they had access to on a low shelf.

On the day of inspection, children were observed to take their lunch from the fridge at snack time and were encouraged to open and close lunch boxes and bottles and be responsible for their own belongings. Snack time was a social experience during which time the staff members sat at the table with the children engaging in social conversations with them.

Children were encouraged to use the toilet and engage in handwashing independently with assistance provided where needed. The staff working with the children were sensitive and responsive to the needs of the children.

Within the daily routine of the service, on the day of inspection children moved about the care room freely, engaging in free play activities which interested them, and the staff followed their lead in games such as hide and seek. Bean bags and cosy cushions were available for the children to rest or take a break from activities.

Supporting Relationships

The children appeared happy and content and were engaged and relaxed within the care room and in the outdoor play area. They were given ample time to complete activities before moving to the next one. The staff members ensured that the children were supported in all aspects of their physical, emotional and social wellbeing and demonstrated warmth, kindness, affection and respect in all interactions with the children.

Transitions were handled very smoothly on the day of inspection and the children appeared to be used to their routine and know what to expect. Various cues are used to indicate to the children that it is time to move to the next part of the day, such as clean up time, snack time and outdoor play.

As the children are consistently cared for by the same staff this has enabled them to form secure relationships, attachments and develop their confidence and autonomy within the service.

Physical and Material Environment

The indoor environment was laid out in such a way that children had access to resources and interest areas within the room. These were well considered and suitably resourced with materials available such as a play kitchen, a library area, an arts and crafts and mark making station, construction area, sensory activity boards and puzzles. A family wall was created on the cupboard door containing photos of each child's family.

Staff members informed the inspectors that the children enjoyed time in the outdoor play area daily. On the day of inspection, this area was adequately supervised, safe and secure with the children dressed in warm jackets, hats and gloves. The equipment and materials available provided appropriate learning opportunities for the children based on their age and stage of development. Children were observed to have autonomy in leading their play choices without the direction of the staff member. In this area children had access to climbing frames, slides,

large trays with soil for messy play, shovels and plant pots which links to their interest in the garden centre located next door which they visit frequently according to staff.

Programme of Activities

During the inspection it was evident that children's individual choice was respected in the daily routine in which they are encouraged to participate. There were picture cues and visual displays on the wall at their level to support them to make decisions on their play throughout the day. Children were observed to make choices on their own play materials within the environment, engaged in movement activities and relaxing activities. Positive language was observed to be used across the staff team and with the children. Language development was supported in discussions observed both at snack time and in the outdoor areas where the staff encouraged the children to use words to describe their thoughts and feelings.

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 door to the playroom were secured on the inspectors' arrival to the service. Visitors to the service were required to sign in at reception. Children and staff attendance records were maintained and updated daily. Staff advised how they use a computer to record children's details throughout the day and parents received a verbal handover at collection time. The outdoor area was secure and the play area fully enclosed. Storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were restricted to children.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap, water and paper towels were available to facilitate handwashing for staff and children. Good hand washing practices were observed after toileting and outdoor play and before eating. Lunch boxes that included perishable food items were stored in the fridges in the playrooms in line with safe food guidance.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of prescribed medication with procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an

emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication if required during discussions with the inspectors in line with care plans and the service policy.

Outing:

The staff and children go on outings once a month. The staff and children have access to the service bus. Last month children visited the library and the park. The outings were managed well, with adult to child ratios maintained. The staff bring the first aid box with them. The outings are planned to locations that the service is familiar with.

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 FAR and first aid for children available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

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 firefighting 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)

The last recorded fire drill was carried out on 28 February 2025.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in March 2024 and January 2025.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*
- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
 - (b) safe and secure,*
 - (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
 - (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
 - (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a) The premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

- (b) The premises was safe and secure with the entrance door to the playroom secured with a keypad on the inspectors' arrival to the service. Visitors to the service were required to sign in at reception. The outdoor play area is fenced securely.
- (c) There was adequate light and heat in the care room. The service has both natural and mechanical ventilation in the sanitary area.
- (d) The service appeared clean and well maintained. There were cleaning schedules available demonstrating daily and weekly cleaning procedures.
- (e) The sanitary area included one toilet, two handbasins and a changing unit to meet the needs of children with additional needs which is height adjustable.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The care room was measured on the day of inspection with adequate space for the needs of the children and staff who work there.

The measurements were recorded as follows:

7.6 metres long and 4.6 metres wide.