

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX031
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Name of Service:	Clonroche Playschool
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Address of Service:	c/o St. Aidan's National School, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y21 PY59
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Name of Registered Provider:	John Joyce
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	12/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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).

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Description of service

This sessional service is situated in the village of Clonroche Co Wexford. The service is operated from rooms attached to St. Aidan's National School. A sessional service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 12:00. The service consists of a large preschool room, toilets, a hallway and an outdoor area. The service also has use of a safe, suitable and secure outdoor area accessed directly from the service. The service has access to a larger outdoor area and indoor hall when not in use by the school aged children attending the national school. The service is also registered to provide a school age service.

Staffing

The service employed a total of four staff including the manager. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. All staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

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Regulation 10 Policies and Procedures,
Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),
Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a),
Regulation 22 Food and Drink ,
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 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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was a person available to deputise and the staff rota indicated these staff were rostered to work when the service was in operation.

Following a review of documentation and a discussion with the manager it was confirmed there were four staff employed in the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

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(2)(a)(b)

All required written and validated references were available on file in the service.

(c)

There was a Garda vetting certificate available on file for all staff working in the service. The service had demonstrated compliance with the requirement to have all staff Garda vetting renewed every 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than Ireland for longer than a period of six consecutive months.

(4)

All staff working directly with the children held a qualification at level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on healthy eating and the managing of incidents and accidents in the service.

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.

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Compliance Information

(1)

There was at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the preschool children.

(3)

At 11:00 there were 12 children aged from 2 to 6 years in the care of 4 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

(1)(a)

The manager ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of engaging activities during the inspection including playing together in the indoor gym, enjoying snack time, availing of free play in the preschool room.

The service had the use of two secure outdoor play areas. The large outdoor play area to the rear had been further developed since the last inspection. There was a wooden obstacle course and climbing frame for the children to play on. Staff facilitated children to enjoy free play in the preschool room. There was an extensive dress up area which children were observed using. Children were well supported and supervised. Minor disputes were handled calmly by the staff. Staff were observed to be prompt in intervening in minor disputes ensuring the children were always supported in the service. Staff had initiated a star reward chart for positive behaviour noted by them. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this measure helped to encourage the children to share and take turns with their friend and encourage positive behaviour in the service.

Staff were observed constantly engaged with the children while they were enjoying tabletop activities making play dough for St. Patricks day. The play dough was green. There was lots of chat regarding the children's plans to attend parades in the nearby town in the coming days.

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The preschool room was well resourced with play equipment for the learning and enjoyment of the children. The areas of interest such as the construction area, the home corner, and the shop area were resourced with a supply of quality toys and equipment. The materials were laid out on shelves with containers which were easily accessible and visible to the children. There was a large comfortable armchair for the children to relax in while looking at the picture books available.

Staff demonstrated warmth and kindness in their interactions with the children. Staff were observed sharing information with the parents at collection time. Staff gave information on how the children were getting on in the service.

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. The service had recently secured a government grant to provide all the snacks served to the children attending the service. There was a menu displayed in the front hall of the service for parents to see what was available daily for their children. For example, on the day of inspection children were given a choice of wraps, cereal, yogurt and freshly prepared diced fruit for them to try. Staff who spoke to the inspector said that children enjoyed the choice and variety of food on offer to them.

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

The manager has taken the following steps to ensure the safety of the children attending the service.

General safety:

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was secured on arrival. Hazardous cleaning products were stored out of reach on shelves, inaccessible to the children.

Infection control:

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The service was clean. There was a fridge available to store the perishable food purchased by the service to provide to the children. All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins.

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 was a staff member trained in a first aid responder course available in the service on the day of inspection. There were two staff members trained in a first aid responder course working in the service. This number was satisfactory to cover the roster in the service.

(2)(a)(b)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which was available to the children.

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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 template in place in the service to record any fire drill that takes place in the service. The last fire drill taken place in the service was recorded in February 2026.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in February 2026. The smoke alarm was last serviced in December 2025.

(4)

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.