

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX035		
Name of Service:	Crannog na Leanai Kindergarten Ltd.		
Address of Service:	Kiltennel, Gorey, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y25 D680		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sarah Murphy		
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	11/06/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM 7
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan		
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 community Kindergarten offers a part time and sessional service to children 2 to 6 years of age. The service is located in a rural setting in north county Wexford. The service offers a Steiner inspired pedagogy to the children. The premises consists of a log cabin and two octagon shaped houses, each with their own kitchens and bathrooms and located within a natural outdoor play area. They are named Rose White room, Rose Rainbow room and Rose Red room. This year the service operated from the two octagon houses only.

Staffing

There are seven people working in the service, which includes the registered provider who works directly with the children. All the staff working directly with the children in the service held the minimum Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 10 Policies and procedures

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 19 Health and Welfare and Development of the child

Regulation 25 First aid,

Regulation 26 Fire Safety 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, 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 registered provider 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 seven 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 available on file for staff who 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 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 written policies, procedures and statements, as specified in Schedule 5, available for the service. The policies reviewed for this inspection included the following: healthy eating policy, rest policy, risk management policy, nappy changing and toileting policy, administration of medicines policy and illness and infection control policy. The policies reviewed were appropriate in contents for 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.

(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)
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service. During the morning there were 28 children in the care of 7 staff.
After the sessional service was completed, there were 7 children in the care of 2 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 staff ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were observed by the inspector engaging in a variety of activities during the inspection. The children were observed both in the indoor and outdoor play areas on the day.

On arrival to the premises four children from the rose white house were outside with a staff member painting stones on the picnic bench, with the remaining children inside engaged in alternative activities. Another staff member was observed helping a child who was upset to settle and regulate. The staff was down at the child's level, calmly and softly reassuring the child.

On arrival into the rose red house, children and staff were engaged in their weekly baking activity. Children wore aprons and enjoyed rolling and cutting out scones, which the staff baked for them to take home. After this activity and tidy up, children washed their hands, then with the help of staff set the table for the morning snack. This included putting flowers on the table and pouring water for their friends.

The morning snack consisted of brown bread that was baked that morning, cheddar cheese, bowls of freshly chopped fruit, peppers and cucumber. Each child was asked what they wanted to eat demonstrating children's choices were facilitated within the service. Staff praised the children for helping and waiting till everyone was served to begin eating. Children in the rose white house chose to eat their morning snack outside at the picnic tables and enjoyed the same home-made bread, cheese, fruit and vegetables.

The two houses were painted and decorated in soft colours. The environment was homely, with furniture and materials made from timber and natural materials such as sheep skin rugs, cotton, and wool to reflect the Steiner philosophy. The home corners were well resourced. The quantity of toys and materials was pared back to allow children more child led opportunities for imaginative and creative play.

Staff and children's individual creativity was fostered within the service. For example, fresh flowers were laid on the table to reflect the keen interest in gardening and items including flags, bunting and birthday crowns worn by the children to celebrate each other's birthdays were crocheted by staff.

Outside staff were observed to manage disputes between children with respect and calmness. Gentle and positive language was used to resolve disputes. Each house had their own outdoor gardens. The gardens were spacious and had stone pathways and grass areas. The children had space to play freely outside. The area had timber climbing frames, a hammock, digging areas, water play, sand pits, seating areas, shelter areas and vegetable patches. Children changed into wet gear and wellies before going out to the outdoor gardens. Children had slippers or indoor shoes for inside.

Parents speak with the staff who care for their children daily at drop off and collection times. The parents were welcomed into the houses and gardens. Each house had a group text message service to send out updates and information such as newsletters, outings and day to day information.

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 two 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 26 May 2025.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in May and June 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 VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for a part time service for 44 children.