

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX103
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Name of Service:	Scoil Spraoi na Leanaí FDYS
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Address of Service:	Pondsfield, New Ross, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y34 P963
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kieran Donohoe
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	26	PM	19
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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

Scoil Spraoi na Leanaí is a community based preschool service. It offers a part-time service to children aged between 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 09:00 to 13:00 daily. The service is located in a purpose-built facility. The service consists of a two preschool rooms, a sensory room, toilets, an office and a kitchen. The service has a large outdoor facility which is situated to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were 10 staff employed in the service. All staff working directly with the preschool children 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

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.

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.

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Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),
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 measures,
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

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 10 staff employed in the service. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

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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 has demonstrated compliance with the requirement to have all staff Garda vetting renewed every 3 years for all staff in the service.

(d)

There was police vetting available on file for one staff member who had lived in a state other than Ireland as an adult 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.

(7)

The manager had ensured all staff were up to date and knowledgeable of the policies and procedures in place in the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector were aware of their responsibilities in the service. For example, in relation to the behaviour management policy in place in the service. There was extensive evidence of continuous professional development. There were certificates of completion of a variety of preschool related courses evident in the staff files. For example, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, encouraging language development in early childhood and education settings, and certificates for courses entitled Early Talk Boost Training.

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 were the policy on behaviour management and the policy on healthy eating in the service. These policies and procedures were complete and specific to the service.

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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)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

At 11:00

There were 26 children between 3 and 6 years of age in the care of 7 members of staff.

At 12:45

There were 19 children between 3 and 6 years of age in the care of 7 members of staff.

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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 occupied with a variety of engaging activities during the inspection including playing together in the outdoor area, enjoying snack time, availing of free play in the outdoor area.

On arrival at the service the inspector observed the children were playing in the outdoor area. The staff were always engaged with the children during their play activities. The large outdoor area was well-resourced for the play and stimulation of children. There was a mud kitchen well-resourced with equipment such as pots, pans, and utensils. There was a large climbing frame which included a slide and a ladder for children to play on. There was a trampoline which had been dug into the ground for safety and a wooden house which had seating for children to rest on.

The area had been further developed since the last inspection with the addition of a lean-to structure on the side of the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this could be used by the children when it was raining.

Children were observed in small groups playing imaginative games. Some children were gathering grass to build a nest, others were making pretend burgers with twigs.

The preschool rooms were well resourced and developed for children to enjoy free play. The room to the right on the entrance door (NCS room) had a large family tree with photos of the children, their parents and extended families displayed. The home corner in this room was well resourced with quality toys for the children to play with. There was original artwork displayed of collages of flowers and some stored on drying racks in the room. The second room (ECCE room) was well planned. Areas of interest were well resourced with good quality toys and equipment. Original artwork of rockets which the children had made was on display. There was a construction bench with mini tools. and hats made of pom poms from wool which staff had made. There was a large dress up area for the children to enjoy imaginative play.

The service had also developed a sensory room in the service for children to relax in. This room contained a light installation of a tube with colourful lights and bubbles. There were comfortable mats and a ball pool for the enjoyment of the children. One child took great delight in leading the inspector in to demonstrate how they

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enjoyed the room. There were mats on the floor made of gel which the child demonstrated to the inspector how to walk on.

Staff were observed to be kind and attentive to the children in their care. Many of the children's older siblings had also attended the service so staff were aware and familiar with the families of the children attending.

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 and had recently secured a government grant to provide all the snacks served to the children attending. Children were given cheese, yogurt, fruit, nachos and water to drink for their morning snack on the day of inspection. Staff who spoke to the inspector said that they discussed with the children what they would like for the following days snacks. They described they were trying to introduce new foods for the children to try. The menu in the service was still in development as the children continue to express their likes and dislikes for various foods. Staff who spoke to the inspector said they were informed on which healthy options to provide based on the guidance from the government funded programme.

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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 external door was secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people gaining access to the service. The front door was secured by a lock. Access was gained to the service by ringing the bell. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children.

Infection control:

The service was very clean and had recently been painted throughout. The service had an infection control policy. Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and after messy play. There was no obvious maintenance required.

Administration of medication

The service had an administration of medication policy. The policy was reviewed by the inspector and was found to be in line with best practice for the safe administration of medication in a preschool setting.

Accident and incidents

The service had a policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service.

Outings

There is a policy in place for the safe management of outings. The service accommodates one outing a year.

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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 person trained in a first aid responder course available to the children on the day of inspection. There were three staff trained in the course, which was adequate to cover the rota in the service.
- (2)(a)(b)
- There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool 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 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

- There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place in service in February 2026.
- (b)
- There was a record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment available in the service. This maintenance was carried out in July 2025. The annual service of the smoke alarm was carried out in service in September 2025.
- (4)

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There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position at 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 insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.