

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX110
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	St. Mogue's Community Childcare Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	C/O St. Mogue's Community Centre, Inch, Gorey, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y25 K7R5
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Rachella O'Donnell
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	28/01/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	49	PM	37
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan & JA. McKimm
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors
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### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

St. Mogue's Community Childcare Centre is a community full day care service and is managed by a voluntary board of management. It operates from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and caters for children aged 6 months to 6 years of age. The service operates from a purpose-built premises within the grounds of the community centre in the rural village of Inch, north county Wexford. The service consists of four playrooms, a large communal area, sleep facilities, a kitchen, entrance lobby, office and sanitary accommodation. Outside children have access to a large, enclosed playground and garden.

### Staffing

There were 20 staff working and 3 students on placement in the service in total. The manager is the designated person in charge and assists as needed across the service. The registered provider does not work daily in the service. All of the staff working directly with the children held the minimum level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education. The service employs a chef and a cleaner under the community employment scheme.

### 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 the child,  
Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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
- (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)(b)(c)

The manager was the designated person in charge of the service on the inspector's arrival. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed. Staff were clear around their roles and responsibilities and reporting structures within the service.

The files for 23 staff working in the service, including 3 student files, were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for each of the 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 on file for the staff who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.
- (4)  
There were certificates of qualification for the staff members working directly with the preschool children 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)  
During the inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.  
During the morning there were 17 staff caring for 49 children.  
During the afternoon there were 17 staff caring for 37 children.  
The manager was present and available to assist throughout the day as needed.  
Three students were present on placement and supernumerary to the 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 following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection:

##### Basic Needs

Children's needs were met in a warm caring responsive manner, as a result children were observed to be confident in their environment for example, they showed the inspector their artwork and were keen to talk about their day.

The children were supported to follow their own interests, explore their environment and given freedom of choice, while being offered support during activities and transitions. Decision making was encouraged by staff members who were observed to actively supervise and guide the children throughout the day.

On the day of inspection, the children had access to a range of sensory and messy activities and play. They played with water, sand and a range of natural materials for example leaves and twigs, play dough with chia seeds, home-made pizzas and mobility was encouraged through crawling tunnels made from cardboard boxes.

##### Supporting Relationships

Songs and music were used to support the transition of children between activities, warm and positive interactions were observed between children and staff, for example staff gave children prompts and time to finish between activities.

The staff within the service were observed to speak to each other in a professional and warm manner, working as a team to meet the changing needs of the children throughout the day.

##### Physical and Material Environment

Low level tables, chairs and highchairs were available for use by the children which allowed them to engage in tabletop activities and meals comfortably.

Toys and materials were of good quality and accessible on low level shelving which allowed children to access them independently. The care rooms were designed to support the age and developmental stages of the children and included defined areas of interest, such as home corners and cosy areas.

Materials including jigsaws and puzzles, a selection of books, cars, animals, dolls, sensory activities and kitchens with supporting props were available to the children, facilitating a range of play and learning experiences and promoting imaginative play. The environment in all playrooms contained a high level of natural materials boosting children’s creativity, play and learning. The service had adopted the curiosity approach to their play environments, and the rooms included open ended toys and equipment, loose parts and natural materials to support the children’s natural curiosity and imagination. For example, cardboard boxes became play tunnels.

Children’s artwork, photographs, family walls and birthday charts were displayed throughout the playrooms and service, supporting the children’s sense of identity and links between home and the service.

The outdoor areas provided opportunities for a variety of play experiences including sensory play, gross motor and imaginative play for example, children rode on push toys and played traditional outdoor games tags and hopscotch.

### 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 leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.

Cleaning agents and medication were stored out of children's reach and storage facilities were inaccessible to children. Emergency and fire exits were signposted and unobstructed and staff were aware of the evacuation procedures and location of the assembly point.

A sample of 10 accident and incident forms were reviewed and were fully completed and signed.

##### Infection Control:

The playrooms and sanitary areas were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels. Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before eating, after messy play and after toileting. Staff ensured children’s hands were washed after nappy changing. Nappy changing practice was observed, and staff followed the nappy changing policy and all required steps for infection control, including the use of gloves, aprons, and thorough handwashing after changes.

Foot operated pedal bins were available throughout the premises to ensure the hygienic disposal of waste materials. The premises, equipment and materials appeared clean and were maintained in a hygienic condition.

### Administration of Medication:

There was an administration of medication policy. The staff discussed with the inspectors the procedure to follow when a child required administration of medication. A sample of seven medication forms including one individual health care plan were reviewed on the day and were completed in line with the service's policy.

### Safe Sleep:

Staff members were observed to physically check and record the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children every 10 minutes in line with good safe sleep practices.

Cots were observed to be in good condition and positioned 50cm apart, allowing staff members to move easily around the room while carrying out sleep checks.

Appropriate bed linen was in use for sleeping children.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

The use of window restrictors was not observed on all windows that were easily accessible to children. On the day of inspection window restrictors in the Fern room were not in use posing a potential risk of injury to children.

The door to the staff room and kitchen was propped open with a large water refill container. There was a trailing flex of two kettles, and knives on low shelving units which were easily accessible to children if they entered the kitchen. This posed a significant safety risk to children. It is acknowledged that on the day the door to both the staff room and kitchen were closed after this was highlighted by the early years inspector.

### Infection Control:

Toilet doors were propped open in a number of the playrooms, which poses as a risk of cross contamination.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The service submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

### Corrective and Preventive Action

A memo has been issued to staff that the window restrictor is to be in use at all times when the window is open. Staff were instructed verbally by the childcare manager that the staff room door was to remain closed at all times. A memo was issued to all staff outlining this as well.

Amendments have been made to policy No. 8 fire & safety prevention and the amended policy issued to staff.

Both the childcare manager and assistant manager will ensure that these instructions are carried out at all times

Staff were instructed on the day of inspection that doors leading into the toilets from the playrooms are to be closed at all times, this was followed up by the issuing of a memo regarding the non-compliance. A notice was placed on toilet doors that they are to be kept closed at all times. Amendment has been made to policy No. 6 and the policy issued to staff. The childcare manager and assistant manager will ensure that these instructions are carried out at all times.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Copy of memo issued to staff, updated policy 6 and policy 8.

### **Summary Comment**

The requirement of the regulation is met.

## 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 immediately available to the children attending the preschool service. There was evidence on file that five staff working directly with children were trained in FAR.

(2)(a)(b)  
There was a suitably equipped first aid boxes stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which were 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

(1)(a)

Fire drills were completed monthly. The last fire drill completed was recorded in January 2026.

(b)

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

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position 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 a valid certificate of insurance for full day care for 62 children.