

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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|--|---|----|-------|
| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>   | TU2015WX119   |    |       |
| <b>Name of Service:</b>  | Templeshannon Community & Childcare Centre Ltd  |    |       |
| <b>Address of Service:</b>   | The Shannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford   |    |       |
| <b>Eircode:</b>  | Y21 T8K8  |    |       |
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>  | Seamus Joseph Whitney   |    |       |
| <b>Service type:</b>   | Part Time, Sessional  |    |       |
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b>   | 07/01/2026  |    |       |
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b>  | AM  | 33 | PM 17 |
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>  | Early Years Inspectorate<br>Tusla Child and Family Agency<br>Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford |    |       |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>   | C. Ryan   |    |       |
| <b>Title:</b>  | Early Years Inspector   |    |       |
| <b>Authority to Inspect</b>  |   |    |       |
| 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  |    |       |

### Description of service

Templeshannon Community Childcare Service is community based and managed by a voluntary committee. The service provides play-based sessional and part time care to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The service operates Monday to Friday from 08:45 to 13:45.

The service is located within the community center building in Enniscorthy town and consists of two playrooms over two floors, sanitary accommodation and indoor and outdoor play areas.

### Staffing

There are 12 staff working in the early years service. 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 staff working directly with the children held the minimum 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9(1)(2)(4) – Management and Recruitment,  
Regulation 11(1)(2) – Staffing Levels,

Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b) -Facilities for Rest and Play,  
Regulation 21 - Equipment and Materials,  
Regulation 22- Food and Drink,  
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 inspector wishes 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
- (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 all staff working in the service 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 demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. See Regulation 23.
- (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 8 staff caring for 33 children.  
During the afternoon there were 5 staff caring for 17 children.  
The manager was present and available on the premises throughout the day.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The two playrooms were well maintained and decorated with both rooms bright, warm and inviting.

Each room had an area which was comfortable and cosy if children wanted a rest or time away from group activities. The rooms were well equipped with definite areas of interest for the children, which offered them opportunities for large motor, fine motor development and also the options for imaginative play in the home corner, construction area, garage and cars or the small world space and dolls.

The outdoor play area consists of an enclosed space to the rear of the playschool that was directly accessible from the lollipops room. The area included a covered space, a mulch area, a sandpit, planting beds, a mud kitchen, water play and a variety of toys, materials and equipment.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The children were cared for in two rooms, the Jellybeans room and the Lollipops room.

Each room was equipped with low shelving, containers and baskets which allowed children to access toys and equipment independently. The rooms were well-resourced and used furniture and floor coverings to create definite areas of interest, for example, each room had an area with soft carpeting for the rest and quiet time.

The equipment, toys and materials available to the children was suitable for their age and stage of development.

The rooms had clear areas of interest which were well laid out and resourced to enhance the children's play

experience. These included with a construction area, reading areas, dolls house, home/kitchen, puzzles and activity trays.

Children's identity and belonging in each room were fostered with family photographs, birthday walls and personalised hooks to store their belongings. Children's artwork was displayed and there was evidence of a programme of care and daily routine. Child size tables and chairs were available, and staff set up a variety of activities on the tables such as playdough, magnetics, colouring stations that the children freely moved between.

### 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 promotes healthy eating and updates their healthy eating policy to reflect new practices around food provision for the children attending the service. The staff and manager describe how they believe it is important at a young age to introduce and educate children about good nutrition and the health benefits of eating well.

As part of a new initiative called Bia Blasta launched by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, in 2025, the service now provides all food and snacks for children. This ensures that all children receive balanced, nutritious snacks in line with the programme's guidelines and HSE healthy eating standards.

The staff and children have fully embraced the new government initiative, and the following practices are now part of the children's routine.

The staff and children devised a weekly menu plan for their mid-morning and lunchtime meals. The menu is displayed for parents to see. A weekly food shop is done for the ingredients to make their snacks and food.

Children are part of the food preparation process and are supplied with child safe cutlery such as peelers and knives to help chop fruit and vegetables. Staff included children in discussion around the food and menu. For example, the children made smoothies and platters of chopped fruit for their mid-morning snack on the day of inspection. The children and staff discussed how best to make the smoothie and whether they preferred it made with yogurt or juice.

Children were observed to wash their hands before eating and set the table for their lunch. The service had purchased plates, mugs, bowls and cutlery to replace plastic utensils and plates. A large jug of water was readily available and a drinks station with the children's water beakers was easy to reach. A staff member was allocated to the food preparation daily. The children had warm couscous with vegetables for their lunchtime meal, followed by platter of chopped fruit. It was served at the table in a large bowl with each child capable of serving how much they wanted onto their plates. Additional food was available if a child didn't like what was made on the day.

Additionally, the service has been allocated an allotment within the Enniscorthy local community and small group of children visit the allotment every week, where they will plant and grown vegetables and fruit.

### 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:

Access to the playrooms was appropriately secured via an electronic system to restrict entry to unauthorised persons. The outdoor play area was fully enclosed, and children were fully supervised while outside.

##### Infection Control:

Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before eating, after messy play, outdoor play and after toileting. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service.

##### Administration of Medication:

There was an administration of medication policy. The staff discussed with the inspector the procedure to follow when a child required administration of medication. A sample of medication forms were reviewed on the day.

##### Safe Sleep:

There was currently no child attending requiring sleep however staff showed the inspector the designated areas for rest and sleep. Sleep beds and linen was available if needed.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years.

There were Garda vetting disclosures on file for all staff members, however the vetting disclosure for one staff member was not dated within the previous 3 years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda vetting.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

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

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

The service has carried out the re-vetting for the staff member and have received their vetting disclosure. We have set up a document with all expiry dates for staff members vetting and will we review every three years to ensure re-vetting is done before expiration dates.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

Copy of Garda vetting.

**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 six 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 on the 08 December 2025.

(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in March and December 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 part time care for 44 children.