

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX127
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Tintern Community.
-------------------------	--------------------

Address of Service:	Tintern Community & Sports Complex, Ballycullane, New Ross, Co Wexford.
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	Y34 X767
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Willie Fitzharris
-------------------------------------	-------------------

Service type:	Sessional, parttime.
----------------------	----------------------

Date of Inspection:	06/02/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	27
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early years Inspectorate Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford Tusla Child and Family Agency.
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Tintern Community is a preschool service situated in the village of Ballycullane, in county Wexford. It is managed by a board of management. The service provides a part-time service for children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 9.00am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday for 48 weeks per year. The service is operated from designated rooms within the community centre which are allocated for the exclusive use of the service. The service consists of two large playrooms, toilets, nappy changing facilities, a large indoor gym area on the first floor and an outdoor play area for the exclusive use of the children. The children also have access to the surrounding pitches attached to the GAA complex.

Staffing

There were eight staff employed in the service including the manager who also works directly with the children. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. All staff held the minimum of level 5 and above in early childhood care and education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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.

The inspection focused on the following regulations,

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment,

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Regulation 10 Policies and procedures,
Regulation 11 Staffing levels,
Regulation 15 Record of preschool child,
Regulation 17 Information for parents,
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,
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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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:

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in service for the duration of the inspection. There was also a person available to deputise if required.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were eight staff employed in the service.

All required written and validated references were available on file for all staff working in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

(d)

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

(4)

There were qualifications on file for all staff working directly with children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

(7)

The manager had ensured that all employees were supervised and provided with appropriate information. Staff who spoke to the inspector were clear in their understanding of the policies and procedures in place in the service. For example, staff who spoke to the inspector were aware of the infection control policy in place in the service.

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 infection control, and the policy on the administration of medication in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 always working directly with the children during the duration of the inspection.

(2)

At 11.00am

There were 29 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 8 staff.

At 12.30pm

There were 27 children in the care of 7 staff.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

(a) the name and date of birth of the child;

(b) the date on which the child first attended the service;

(c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;

(d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;

(e) authorisation for the collection of the child;

(f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of 10 forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

There was a parent handbook given to parents when they enrolled their child in the service. The inspector reviewed the information given to them. The service provided parents with information as required under regulation 17. The information provided for parents contained an outline of the curriculum, the hours of operation, contact details and the facilities available within the service. There was also information included on funding schemes available for parents to apply for.

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 equipment and materials provided in both in the preschool rooms were presented and maintained to provide for the play and learning needs of the children attending the service.

At 12.00pm children were observed playing in the large indoor gymnasium. There was a supply of play equipment stored in a large cupboard for the children to use. It was a particularly cold and wet day on the day of inspection. Staff who spoke to the inspector said the children enjoyed using this space and equipment when the weather was particularly poor when they could not get outside to play.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

There were balance beams for children to walk on. There were games where children could throw hoops around cones. There were also large durable bean bags for children to play on.

The play group room upstairs had a sandpit, a dolls house, a music centre to play music chosen by the children, there were bibs for painting and a selection of books for the children to read in the relaxation area.

In the playschool room downstairs, there was a supply of toys stored in easily accessible shelves in clearly labelled boxes for the children to play with. There was a shop with miniature equipment for the children to play with.

There was a supply of arts and crafts materials in the room for all the children to use. There was a wall of photographs of the families of the children displayed on a wall in the room.

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. Parents provided all the meals and snacks in the service. The children were observed having their snack when the inspector arrived. The children were observed to enjoy a variety of healthy food provided by their parents. There were fruit, diced vegetables, sandwiches, yogurt and a selection of rice cakes. Children were given water to drink.

Children who were attending on a part-time basis were given their second snack at 12.30pm when the children attending on a sessional basis had gone home. Some children enjoyed a hot meal which was provided by parents.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 service was gained through the door to the playschool room which was secured on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection. Access to both childcare rooms, the play group room and the playschool room were gained by using a key code which only the staff had access to.

Infection Control

The service was clean. There were daily and weekly cleaning schedules maintained. The service had an infection control policy. The staff were observed to be attentive in supporting the children in washing their hands, before snack time, after using the toilet and after messy play. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot pedal operated bins provided throughout the service.

Administration of medication:

The service had an administration of medication policy. The policy was reviewed by the inspector and was found to contain the members required aspects for the safe administration of medication in a preschool setting. Previous records of medication that had been administered in the service were reviewed by the inspector. It was clearly documented; the consent was signed by the parent, and the document of the administration procedure was verified and signed by two staff.

Outings

The service did not facilitate outings.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending preschool service. There was evidence that there were eight staff trained in a first aid responder course available to the children attending the service, which was sufficient to cover across the rota in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position to the staff 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

(1)(a)

There was a record of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was carried out in February 2026.

(1)(b)

There was a record available to demonstrate the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. This maintenance was last carried out in November 2025.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service who were present on the day of inspection.