

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>jTUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX129
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tiny Tots Playschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Cushinstown, Foulksmills, New Ross, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y35 HW20
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ann O'Neill
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	19/11/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	4
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Child and Family Agency, Ferrybank, Wexford.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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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

Tiny Tots Playschool is a privately operated preschool service which opened in 1998. It is in a rural setting near New Ross Co Wexford. The service is operated from a purpose-built premises on the grounds of the registered provider's home. The service is registered to provide a sessional service to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service provides two sessions, one in the morning from 9.00am to 12.00pm and one in the afternoon from 12.00pm to 3.00pm.

### Staffing

There are two staff employed in the service. The registered provider also works directly with the children. All staff working directly with the children held the minimum of level 5 and above 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.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 10 Policies and Procedures,

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (3),

Regulation 15 Record of a preschool child,

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,  
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).  
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)

The registered provider was the person in charge on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were two staff employed in the service. Written and validated references were available on file for all staff working in the service.

(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 there were no staff who 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 the children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

## 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 healthy eating and the managing of incidents and accidents in 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.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

At all times there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

(3)

At 11.00am

There were 13 children in the care of 2 staff.

At 1.00pm

There were 4 children in the care of 2 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;*
- (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 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 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 main preschool room was resourced with play equipment for the learning and enjoyment of the children attending the preschool. The play equipment was stored on open shelves which allowed the children to access the toys and play equipment independently. The area of interest which had been developed for the children. There was a home corner, a construction corner and a stage area. There was original art displayed which the children had created of Autumn Leaves. There was a large container of sand for the children to play with.

There was a dress up area which had been resourced with a variety of outfits for children to wear while enjoying free play.

The children had lots of room to move about the large preschool room. The outdoor area was enclosed and provided a natural environment and equipment for children to play and learn. There were swings tyres, ride on toys and a natural grassed area for children to play on.

There was an extensive supply of story books for the children to read situated next to the rest area.

### 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. The outdoor area was safe, suitable and secure.

##### Infection control:

The service had an infection control policy. Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and after messy play. The service was clean with no obvious maintenance required. The staff were observed cleaning the service between the morning and afternoon sessions.

##### Administration of medication

The service had an administration of medication policy.

##### Accident and incidents

The service had a policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service. Previous records of accidents and incidents which had occurred in the service were reviewed by the inspector. Records were signed by parents and were in line with the policy in place in the service.

### Outings

The service does not accommodate outings.

### 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 available to the children. Both staff working in the service were trained in a first aid responder course.

(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.

### 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 fire fighting 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 fire drill was recorded as having taken place in service in November 2025.

(b)

There was a record stating the smoke alarm and firefighting equipment was last 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 main entrance 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 was registered to accommodate.