

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX131
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Tir na nOg Childcare Centre
-------------------------	-----------------------------

Address of Service:	Station Road, Rosslare Harbour, Co. Wexford
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	Y35 NX80
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Doyle
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date of Inspection: Day 1:	25/02/2026
Day 2:	26/02/2026

No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	31	PM	19
Day 2:	AM	32	PM	NA

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	C. Ryan
Inspection undertaken by:	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
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

Tir na nÓg Childcare Centre is a privately operated service which opened in 1994. The service is located in Rosslare Harbour Co Wexford. It offers a full day care service to children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates from a residential house and consists of three playrooms, a sleep room, kitchen and an office. An outdoor garden area was available to the children which was fully secured.

Staffing

There are 11 staff employed by the service in total. The registered provider is the designated person in charge and assists as needed across 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.

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,

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Regulation 25 – First Aid,
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety,
Regulation 28 – Insurance and
Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements.

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)

There was a designated person in charge of the service on the inspector's arrival on the first day. The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the second day. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The files for all staff working in the service were reviewed on the day including the student on placement.

(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 partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. See Regulation 23.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were on file for the two 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

Police vetting disclosure was not on file for one staff who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

Police vetting was applied for immediately and the registered provider will review and ensure police vetting is in place going forward as required for staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

Police vetting.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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)(2)

During the inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

Day 1:

During the morning there were 7 staff caring for 31 children.

During the afternoon there were 4 staff caring for 19 children.

Day 2:

During the morning there were 8 staff caring for 32 children.

A student was also present on placement.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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:

The children from the ECCE room enjoyed time outside during the morning. They were appropriately dressed in their wet gear and wellies for the weather. They were observed to transition calmly back in the playroom, where they changed out of their outdoor gear, washed their hands and sat together to enjoy their midmorning snacks.

The snack and mealtimes observed during the inspection were relaxed and a social experience for the children.

Staff helped as needed with opening lunches boxes and they shared their news and planned their next activity.

Attention to personal hygiene was observed, with staff seen to clean children's faces after eating and periodically during the day.

Younger children's needs were met in a warm caring responsive manner, with staff observed to pick up cues from children when they showed signs of tiredness or needed their nappy changed. Staff discussed with the inspector how they facilitated toilet training for children in coordination with the parents. Children were settled, familiar and confident in the surroundings and were observed enjoying playing games such as hide and seek, floor play and tabletop activities and playdough. They enjoyed talking with the inspector about their day.

During the inspection, the children had access to a wide range of toys, materials and equipment such as dolls house, kitchen/home corners, art and craft materials, play dough and books. Low level tables and chairs and open shelving allowed the children to freely and easily access toys and materials. The playrooms were designed to support the age and developmental stages of the children using them. For example, the toddler room had soft matting for crawling and floor play.

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. The staff discussed how they transitioned the children between the rooms during the summer and were familiar with the individual children's likes, dislikes and habits.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Children's artwork, photographs, family walls and birthday charts were displayed throughout the playrooms and service, supporting the children's sense of identity and belonging in 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. The service had two covered/ sheltered areas outside that provided additional opportunities for play in the outdoor 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 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. The gate entrance was secured with two bolts.

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 six 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.

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.

Safe Sleep:

Staff 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 to move easily around the room while carrying out sleep checks.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. 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.

Infection Control:

2. The mattresses in the cot room were examined and did not have waterproof covers which increases the risk of cross contamination as the mattresses can't be adequately cleaned between children.
3. Children and staff were not observed to use soap and water to wash their hands after nappy changing. They were observed to use hand sanitising gel. This practice was discussed with the staff on the day of inspection. It is acknowledged that the staff and children immediately began to wash hands using the warm water, liquid soap and handtowels after each nappy change which is line with the service's policy.

Administration of Medication:

1. A review of administration of medication forms in two playrooms indicated that written parental consent was not obtained before the administration of medication for all children. This was not in line with the service's policy for the safe administration of medication.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective & Preventive Action:

General Safety:

Garda vetting was applied for immediately and is now in place. A reminder is now in place to ensure renewal of vetting is done within the timeframe.

Infection Control:

1. A supply was purchased immediately are now in place. We will ensure a supply of waterproof mattresses will be kept in stock.
2. All staff were trained in handwashing, and this was implemented immediately. All the staff have reviewed the hand-washing policy, and new staff will be trained.

Administration of Medication:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

1. All staff have reviewed the medication policy. The manager will monitor the practice.

Supporting documentation submitted

Policies, photographs and check lists.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response was satisfactory to meet the requirements of the regulation.

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 were three people trained in a first aid responder (FAR) course immediately available to the children attending the service. There was evidence on file that an additional six staff working directly with children were trained in Paediatric first aid.

(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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 20 January 2026.

(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in March and August 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 70 children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)

During the morning there was sufficient space available for the number of children attending the log cabin.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

There was insufficient space available in the log cabin for the number of children attending during the afternoon on day 1 of inspection.

The staff confirmed that the children from the ECCE room and log cabin amalgamated together in the afternoon in the log cabin as the ECCE room is used to accommodate school aged children during the afternoon.

Room:	Ages & Number of Children:	Space Requirements:	Space Required:	Space Available:
		2.3 sq. Metres		
Log Cabin	Between 1.30 and 2.30 pm: 15 children (aged between 3-5 years)		34.5 sq. metres	21.8 sq. Metres
	At 2.30pm: 14 children (aged between 3-5 years)		32. 2 sq. metres	

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that she is in negotiations with the local national school to secure use of a room in the school to accommodate the school aged children. Alternative options include the extension of the log cabin. The registered provider states that going forward she will review the numbers of children attending.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation.

Summary Comment

The actions proposed by the registered provider will be reviewed on the next inspection.