

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016CC501
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Magnet Community Group
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Glen Resource Centre, The Glen, Co Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T23 V3YK
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Roy Watson
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/02/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	10	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23 X440
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D Prendergast
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Magnet Community Group has been in operation since 2016. It is registered to cater for children aged 2 to 6 years, on a sessional basis. The Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) is accommodated from 9.00am to 12.00pm daily, over 38 weeks of the year.

Located on the grounds of the Glen Resource Centre, the premises consists of a prefabricated cabin. There is one care room, with adjacent child and adult sanitary facilities, a kitchen and an office. An outdoor play space is available beside the building and the service also has access to an all-weather surface pitch, located a short walk from the premises.

### Staffing

There are six adults attached to the early years service. Four adults work directly with the children who attend, including one Community Employment (CE) scheme participant. The registered provider and one other adult, who undertakes cleaning duties, are not involved in the direct care of the children.

### 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.

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.

## 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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named deputy.
- (b) The person in charge was present at the setting when the inspector arrived and facilitated the duration of the inspection. The staff attendance records indicated that the person in charge was consistently available during the hours of operation.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge, it was determined that three new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Two of these new staff members worked directly with the children, including a Community Employment (CE) scheme participant. A total of three files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for three further adults, whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal, were requested for review.
- (a) Of the six required written and validated references, one had been provided by a past employer.
- (b) A further four of the required references were from sources other than previous employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three staff. In addition, Garda vetting in respect of three adults had been renewed. This was in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (4) Evidence was available to demonstrate that one of the adults had attained a major award in early childhood care and education.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)(b)
- A second written and validated reference was unavailable in respect of one of the adults. It was acknowledged that a reference dated 9 February 2026, was forwarded following the inspection.
- (d)
- The required police vetting was unavailable for one of the staff members, who had resided outside the State for longer than six consecutive months, as an adult.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

The reference was forwarded following the inspection. As a preventive measure, records will be kept up to date.

(d)

The police vetting has been applied for. Going forward, records will be kept up to date.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b) A second written and validated reference in respect of the adult.

(d) A copy of the required police vetting.

### Summary Comment

Following the corrective action implemented, regulatory compliance is determined to have been met.

## 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) An adequate number of adults were observed to be available to the children throughout the period of inspection.

(3) The required adult to child ratio was adhered to. Three adults were working directly with 10 children, who were aged 3 to 4 ½ years. The CE participant was not included in the adult child ratios.

### 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

(1) From the 14 child records available, a sample of 10 were reviewed. The required information under parts (a) (c) (d) (e) and (i) was included on these records.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) On all 10 of the registration forms, the date on which the child first attended the service was unavailable.
- (f) Information regarding whether or not the child had any illness, disability, allergy or special need, was not provided on two of the records.
- (g) The telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner was not detailed on four of the forms.
- (h) Information in relation to the child’s immunisation status was unavailable on 6 of the 10 records reviewed.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (b) (f) (g) (h)

All of the child records have been updated. Records will be maintained up to date going forward.

## Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of the updated child records were forwarded.

## Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted by the registered provider are accepted in meeting the regulatory requirements.

## 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)

#### Basic needs:

- During the three-hour sessional service, two snack breaks were accommodated. Fruit and yogurts were available for any child who wished to eat within an hour of arrival and the main mid-morning snack was facilitated shortly before 11.00am. Adequate time was allocated for this mealtime and the adults were also noted to assist the children with opening food packaging and containers.
- A staff member advised that nappy changing was attended to during each sessional service and as the need arose. Toilet trained children were noted to utilise the sanitary facilities in an independent manner, with supervision and reminders provided by the adults.
- Any child who wished to rest or relax could avail of a quiet corner in the care room. Additional areas of soft seating were also provided.
- The available space within the care room sufficiently met the children's needs to move freely as they played, explored and participated in the daily routine.

#### Supporting relationships:

- The adults were kind, patient and encouraging towards the children in their care; children's efforts and participation were positively acknowledged.

- The children’s individual needs were supported. For example, children who did not wish to participate in more structured aspects of the daily routine, such as circle time, were accommodated to engage in other activities.
- The service ensured regular communication with parents through the use of a messaging application. Examples of this correspondence were presented for review and were noted to include information in relation to upcoming events and various reminders. Informal interaction between staff and parents was observed at collection time and the person in charge also advised the inspector that phone calls and social media were incorporated as methods of communication.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Basic needs:

The requirement for drinking water to be freely available to the children was not ensured. The inspector was advised that children’s drinks were stored in their bags, which were in the lobby and this would have required a child to ask an adult to open the care room door. It was acknowledged that, after this was brought to the attention of staff, a jug and cups were made available in the care room. However, this non-compliance was also found at the previous inspection on 15 January 2024.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The response stated that a new rota has been put in place.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the lunch/drinks rota, which outlines that drinks are to be brought into the room immediately upon each child's arrival.

### Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider is accepted in meeting the requirements of the regulation.

### 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 main entrance door was adequately secured against the risk of unauthorised access and the unsupervised exit of a child.
- Fencing and a gate were in place to securely enclose the outdoor play environment.
- The high-level door handle on the care room door minimised the risk of children exiting this area unsupervised.
- The door to the adult toilet facility was secured when not in use, which restricted access by children.
- Radiator covers were in place, to reduce the risk of a child sustaining a burn injury.

##### Infection control:

- Liquid soap and paper towel dispensers were available at each of the service's wash hand basins. The children were noted to wash their hands before the mid-morning snack.
- The adult who carried out an observed nappy changing procedure wore a single use apron and gloves.
- Individual storage, in the form of wall hooks, was in place for the children's coats and personal belongings.
- Open windows allowed fresh air to circulate in the care room.

##### Fire safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed during the inspection.
- Illuminated fire exit signage was in place.
- All visible firefighting equipment was safely wall mounted.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General safety:

1. The water temperature at one of the children's wash hand basins was recorded at 48.8°C, which posed a risk of scalding.
2. In the main care room, there was a broken hinge on one of the cupboard doors underneath the sink. As a result, the cupboard door could not be properly closed, which posed a risk of finger trapping.

##### Infection control:

The following posed a risk of cross infection:

3. The nappy changing mat that was in use was heavily torn, with the inner foam exposed and falling out of the mat. Therefore, the changing mat could not be adequately cleaned.
4. All three of the foot pedal operated bins provided in the sanitary facilities were broken, with no lids available on any of the bins.
5. Perishable snacks, such as cheese and yogurts, which the children had brought from home, were not refrigerated before the mid-morning snack. This increased the risk of food spoilage and was also found at the previous inspection. The CAPA response at the time outlined that a member of staff would ensure that each child's perishable snacks were placed in the fridge every morning. However, this was not found in practice.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General safety:

1. The water temperature has been adjusted. As a preventive measure, the temperature will be checked on a regular basis.
2. The broken hinge has been repaired. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as soon as possible.

##### Infection control:

3. A new changing mat has been purchased. Replacement mats will be purchased as soon as required.
4. New bins have been purchased. Replacement bins will be purchased as soon as required.
5. A new rota has been put in place.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted in relation to point 1 – 4. Regarding point 5, a copy of the service's lunch/drinks rota was forwarded, which outlines that lunches are to be placed into the fridge.

### Summary Comment

The registered provider has demonstrated that the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been resolved.

### 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

- (2)
- (a) A first aid box was stored in the kitchen and was readily accessible by adults.
  - (b) The first aid supplies were available at all times when the service was in operation.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- A current certificate in First Aid Response (FAR) training was not held by any of the staff members. It was acknowledged that one staff member had paediatric first aid and that this adult was rostered to work at the setting throughout the hours of operation.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
- The FAR course has been completed by staff and certificates are awaited. Records will be kept up to date going forward.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the FAR certs in respect of the three staff members.

#### Summary Comment

Following the corrective action implemented, regulatory compliance is determined to have been met.

**Part VI - Safety**

**Regulation 28 - Insurance**

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

**Compliance Information**

The available insurance certificate detailed cover for up to 20 children attending the service. The insurance policy was valid from 3 December 2025 until 2 December 2026.