

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016CE003				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Lissycasey Laugh and Learn				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ennis Road, Lissycasey, Ennis, Co. Clare				
<b>Eircode:</b>	V95 PT86				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ger Kelly				
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	12/08/2025				
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	20/08/2025				
<b>No of pre-school children (Day 1):</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>42</td> <td>PM</td> <td>39</td> </tr> </table>	AM	42	PM	39
AM	42	PM	39		
<b>No of pre-school children (Day 2):</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>42</td> <td>PM</td> <td>35</td> </tr> </table>	AM	42	PM	35
AM	42	PM	35		
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	<p>Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare</p>				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A McCarthy & J. Hayes				
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors				
<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

Lissycasey Laugh and Learn is a community based childcare facility that was established in 2016. The service accommodates children ranging in age from six months to six years attending on a full day, part-time or sessional basis. A programme of care and education is facilitated Monday to Friday from 07:30 to 18:00.

There are four care rooms on the ground floor and one care room on the first floor in the purpose-built childcare facility. A sixth care room is located in a separate building to the rear of the premises. The care room on the first floor is used to facilitate care for pre-school children in the morning and school aged children in the afternoon during school term. A kitchen and dining room are located on the ground floor. Four outdoor play areas are located to the front, rear and side of the building.

### Staffing

On the 12 August 2025, 10 adults worked directly with 42 children in the morning and with 39 children in the afternoon. On the 20 August 2025, 11 adults worked directly with 42 children in the morning, and 9 adults worked directly with 35 children in the afternoon.

The person in charge and deputy person in charge provided an administrative role and provided relief during staff breaks. Two auxiliary persons are employed to prepare and cook the food and clean the service. The registered provider is part of the board of management and does not work in the service.

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications on the National Framework of Qualifications ranging from Level 5 to 8. The recruitment files demonstrated records of the employee's engagement in continuous professional development.

### 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 and safety. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

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

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1)(2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26- Fire safety measures (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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, deputy 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 person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The person in charge and the deputy were available during the inspection.

Thirty-three files were available in respect of the registered provider and the adults working by the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

Fifty-six written and validated references from past employers in respect of the adults working in the service were available.

(b)

Ten written and validated references from a source other than a past employer in respect of adults working in the service were available.

(c)  
Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for thirty-three adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d)  
International police vetting was available in respect of four adults working in the service who had lived in another State for a period longer than six months.

(4)  
The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualification or recognised equivalent qualifications.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
During the inspection, an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.

(2)  
On the 12 August 2025, the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Ten adults cared for the forty-two children attending in the morning and for thirty-nine children in the afternoon.

On the 20 August 2025, the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Eleven adults cared for the forty-two children attending in the morning and nine adults cared for thirty-five children in the afternoon.

(8)(a)

The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available in the childcare facility at all times.

## 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.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Four care rooms were in operation during the inspection and the findings are as follows:

#### Basic Needs of Children:

- The meals, the snacks on the day of inspection were suitable and nutritious. Dinners were provided by the service and cooked onsite. The dinners consisted of bacon, mashed potatoes and vegetables. Children's snacks were provided by the parents/guardians, and any perishable foods were stored in fridges.
- Drinks of water were offered with meals and were freely available to the children throughout the day, including when children spent time playing outside.
- Additional food was available should any child be hungry and wish to have additional food.
- Staff supported the children with toileting if required and children were reminded to wash their hands.
- Nappies were changed on a scheduled basis and also if needed in between these times.
- Children slept on a scheduled basis after dinner with cots and stackable beds used appropriately according to the age group of children.
- The children in each care room had access to rest areas where adult sized armchairs were accessible to the children and were observed to be used by the children.
- All children could move about freely within their playrooms and into the outdoor spaces accessible from each playroom and there was no restriction placed on their movement.

- A quiet, well-resourced sensory space was available for children if they required some time away from the large group activities.

### Supporting Relationships

- The adults that were working directly with the children were allocated to the same room daily and the children were observed to be very comfortable in their care.
- Children were observed to seek the support of adults when needed and were responded to promptly.
- An adult was observed to cuddle and comfort a child to soothe them to sleep as they were settling into the creche environment.
- The children were observed to play alone and play in small and large groups. The children were observed to help each other, and this was encouraged by the adults.
- Children were provided with opportunities to meet their siblings when playing outside.
- Parents visited the care rooms and were spoken to at drop off and collection by the adults and the service used a care application system and posted photographs daily and also recorded food eaten, sleeps taken and nappy changes on the app which could be reviewed by parents/guardians.
- The adults encouraged the children to be independent, and support was given if needed.

## 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:

- A key coded and bell operated system was in place at the entrance door to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor play areas were secured with fencing and gates to protect the children within.
- The children's arrival and departure times were recorded in written records and on the electronic childcare application system.
- A record book was available to record visitors to the service.
- Medication and cleaning agents were stored in secured areas out of reach of the children.
- The highchairs were maintained in good condition with fitted safety harnesses in the baby room.
- A double height handrail was provided on the stairs.

### Infection Control:

- The childcare facility was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Cleaning schedules were in place throughout the premises.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins. Photographic illustrations of hand hygiene techniques were displayed over the wash hand basins to prompt children to wash their hands.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, after using the toilet and on return from outdoor play and before mealtime.
- The children's personal belongings were stored individually in containers.
- All cot mattresses were fitted with waterproof washable covers.

### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection.
- The person in charge and adults working in the service demonstrated an understanding of the administration of medication policy.
- Documentation was available for the adults to use should medication be administered in the service.

### Safe Sleep:

- The adults demonstrated an awareness of the service's safe sleep policy.
- Children were placed to sleep in their individual standard cots and low-level beds in the sleep room and care rooms.
- A thermometer was available in the sleep room and care room where children were placed to sleep for the adults to measure and monitor the room temperatures. The room temperatures were maintained between the required temperature of 16 to 20 °Celsius and 18 to 22°Celsius.
- The adults recorded the sleeping children's observations every ten minutes during sleep periods on a written record and also recorded the sleep room temperatures.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service.
- Written records of completed monthly fire drills were available.
- A fire assembly point was readily identifiable and identified by the adults working in the service.
- Evidence of completed fire training was available.

### Outing:

- The person in charge stated that only one outing was undertaken this year with the children. A risk assessment and an outings policy and checklist are completed for every outing.
- The person in charge demonstrated an awareness of the service's outings policy and procedure.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting disclosures were available for thirty-three adults employed by the service. However, five of these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

##### 1. Corrective Action:

On 22 August 2025, the service manager submitted evidence of re-vetting application to the Garda Vetting Bureau in respect to the four adults identified. The updated garda vetting disclosures were received for the four adults and sent to TUSLA.

##### Preventive Action:

The service manager has implemented a monitoring system to ensure all Garda Vetting disclosures remain within the three-year timeframe. The staff files will be reviewed on a quarterly basis, and re-vetting will be applied for in advance of renewal deadlines to allow sufficient time for re-vetting. At the end of each quarter the staff files will be reviewed and identify garda vetting due to expire in the next 6 months and initiate re-vetting applications at least three months prior to expiry. The updated process will ensure that Garda Vetting remains current and compliant with regulatory requirements at all times.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Copies of the Garda vetting disclosures.
2. Copy of the Garda Vetting Monitoring Policy.

### Summary Comment

Based on the corrective actions and supporting documentation provided by the registered provider the non-compliance under Regulation 23 General Safety is 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

(1)  
Nine adults had a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training and the staff roster indicated that an adult with First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available in the service at all times.

(2)(a)  
Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in accessible and conspicuous areas in the service and available for use at the entrance lobby with a separate first aid box fully stocked and available for outings.

(b)  
The first aid boxes were available in the service for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

## 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

(1)(a)

Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place on the 15 August 2025.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment took place on 19 December 2024 and the smoke alarm system took place on 25 February 2025.

(4)

Fire action notices were displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

## Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for 124 children. The insurance policy for the full day care service is valid until the 27 March 2026.