

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016CE005
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kilmihil Community Development Playschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Community Centre, Church Street, Kilmihil, Co. Clare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V15 E983
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Martin Keane
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	05/09/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	27	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A.McCarthy
<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).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

### Description of service

Kilmihil Community Development Playschool is a community-based service that was established in 2016, in the rural village of Kilmihil, County Clare. The sessional service is provided in a single storey building. The service operates Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00. The programme of care and education is facilitated in two care rooms. An outdoor play area is available at the side of the premises.

### Staffing

Five adults are employed by the service. On the 05 September 2024, the manager and four adults worked directly with the children. The registered provider is a member of the board of the management and does not work directly with 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 and safety. 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. 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 manager, 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 manager was the person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The manager and a named person to deputise was available at all times during the inspection.

(2)

Six files were available and reviewed by the inspector. The findings included the following:

(a)

Eight validated references from past employers in respect of adults working in the service were available.

(b)

Four validated references were available in respect adults working in the service from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the five adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Not applicable, international police vetting was not required for the adults working in the service.

(4)

Five adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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)  
During the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (3)  
On the 05 September 2024 the ratio of adults supervising children was maintained in each care room. Five adults supervised for twenty-seven children in attendance.

### 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)  
The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment, having regard age and level of development of the children.

### Basic Needs of Children:

The adults treated the children in a kind and caring manner and positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions. The adults conversed with the children in a sensitive and respectful manner, used soft tones of voice, acknowledged the children by their individual names and responded promptly to their cues for assistance. The children were encouraged to be independent in play and learning, whilst caring for their belongings and using the toilet. The children sat together during mealtime and conversed amicably. Appropriate crockery and feeding utensils were provided in each room. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion. The adults offered praise and encouragement and the children were respected and supported in their choice of individual and group engagement in activities. The children's care need observations were shared with the parents.

### Physical and Material Environment:

The children in each room were offered a range of developmentally challenging play and educational activities. The children were observed to be fully engaged as they transitioned from the indoor to the outdoor environment. The care rooms were bright, spacious and well-resourced and were laid out to enable the children to freely move and play. Numerical and alphabetical learning aids were displayed on the walls in each care room. A variety of opportunities for play was available and accessible in the indoor and outdoor environment with defined areas of interest. The care rooms included a dress up area, a pretend kitchen, a shop area, a construction area, an area to rest and relax and shelving units with a range of toys and learning materials for the age and level of development of the children.

The outdoor play area was located to the side of the area and the children transitioned to the play area throughout the morning. The outdoor play area contained a large spacious, all-weather ground surface area with a covered section for play in all weather conditions. There was a variety of ride on toy vehicles, a wooden mud kitchen, a sea saw, a wooden kitchen, sand and water play and a basketball net available for the children.

## 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, bell operated system was in place at the entrance gate to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The designated outdoor area was secured with fencing and gates to protect the children within.
- The children in attendance were recorded on arrival and on departure from the service.
- Completed risk assessments were available in the service.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, toileting and before mealtime.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and pedal operated bins. Visual aids demonstrating good hand hygiene practices were displayed for children at the wash hand basins to prompt children to wash their hands.
- Refrigerators were available to store the children’s perishable food items.

##### Administration of Medication:

- An administration of medication policy was available to inform practice in the service.
- Medication was not given during the inspection. Documentation was available should medication be required.
- Medication was stored safely in a secure cabinet out of reach of the children.

##### Fire Safety:

- The adults working in the service had evidence on file of completed fire safety training.
- The fire exit routes and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- A fire assembly point was available adjacent to the service.

##### Outing:

- The manager confirmed that outings are not undertaken by the service.

## 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)

Two adults working in the service had a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a readily identifiable area in the care room.

(b)

A first aid box was available in each room 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 in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 06 August 2024.

(b)

A record of the number, type and maintenance for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system were available. The most recent firefighting equipment and smoke alarm maintenance service took place on the 21 August 2024.

(4)

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

## 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 thirty-seven pre-school children. The policy is valid until the 27 March 2025.