

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016TY014
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Rockids Limited
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gortnarush, Dundrum, Co Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E34 NX39
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Liam Ryan, Noreen Ryan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	04/03/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	49	PM	28
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Antoinette McNamara
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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>	N/A
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### Description of service

This service provides sessional, part time and full day care programmes to children aged 12 months to 6 years of age, 50 weeks per year. Including a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) service, 09:30 to 12:30, 38 weeks per year. The service is registered to operate 07:30 to 18:00 in a repurposed two storey building in Dundrum, Co Tipperary. The service has four care rooms over two floors, the wobbler and toddler rooms are on the ground floor. The preschool rooms are on the first floor. The service has a sensory room and four outdoor areas available to the children. The service also has a kitchen, a kitchenette, sanitary accommodation, a nappy changing room, sleep room, utility room and staff room. School age care is also provided in the service.

### Staffing

The service employs 10 staff members, 1 student and both registered providers who work directly in the service. Staff members working with preschool children held qualifications in early childhood education and care at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,

Regulation 10 Policies and procedures,  
Regulation 11(1)(2)(8)(a) Staffing levels,  
Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) (3)(c) Records in relation to a pre-school child,  
Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, welfare, and development of the child,  
Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b) Facilities for rest and play  
Regulation 25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First aid  
Regulation 26 (1)(a)(b)(4) Fire safety  
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 providers, 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named deputy who was able to deputise, as required.

(b) A person in charge was present on the day of inspection. A person in charge was present daily.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that five new staff members had been employed and one student was completing work experience in the service since the previous inspection. All five of these new staff members and the student work directly with the children. A total of six files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for 10 staff members, 1 student and both registered providers was requested for review.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for each person working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for all ten staff employed, the student and both registered providers. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable. Review of the curriculum vitae indicated that police vetting was not required.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working with pre-school children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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

The following policies were assessed for compliance and were deemed to meet the necessary requirements:

- Policy on the administration of medication.
- Policy on infection control.
- Policy on managing behaviour.
- Policy on safe sleep.

### 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*

*(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) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care of the children.

(2) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection met the requirements of the regulations as follows:

Morning:

- Wobbler room: Six children cared for by two staff.
- Toddler room: 10 children cared for by 2 staff.
- ECCE junior: 17 children cared for by 4 staff.
- ECCE senior: 16 children cared for by 2 staff.

Afternoon:

- Wobbler room: Six children cared for by two staff.
- Toddler room: Six children cared for by two staff.
- ECCE junior: Six children cared for by three staff.
- ECCE senior: 10 children cared for by 2 staff.

(8) Documentary evidence indicated that there were always at least two adults on the premises while children were in attendance.

### 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.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

*(c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

A sample of 10 completed registration forms were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

(1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation.

(3)(c) The registration forms were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

## 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.

#### Basic needs:

The children in each room enjoyed freedom of movement both indoors and outdoors. The outdoor area was divided into four distinct areas to allow different age groups of children to play safely outside at the same time. Staff made every effort to ensure the children got to play outside on the day of inspection. The availability of a large, covered area gave children the opportunity to play outside in all weathers. The children were observed to be playing outside for an extended period on the morning of inspection. The children had further opportunities to play outside during the day.

A healthy eating policy was in place. Parents provided food for the children. Perishable products were stored in the fridge. The children enjoyed healthy foodstuffs including fruit, brown bread, cheese, yogurts, and crackers. The children's drink bottles were stored on low level tables in the rooms where the children could access them easily when required. The children and staff sat together at meal and snack times. Children were given as much time to eat as they needed. Meals were relaxed and sociable experiences for the children.

The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own level of personal care appropriate to their level of development. For example, children who were toilet trained were able to access the toilet throughout the day. The children were taught how to wash their hands and were supervised by the staff at hand washing times, such as after messy play and before eating. Nappy changing was carried out at regular times during the day and as required.

Children could rest and relax in the cosy areas in each room. Sleep facilities were available for the children who required a sleep during the day.

Children had free movement and choice of activities in all rooms observed on the day. The staff were observed to be engaged with the children, to sit on the floor or at tables where the children were engaged in activities and to support the children's exploration of their environment and what interested them.

### **Physical and material environment:**

Interest areas available in each room included a cosy area, home corner, open shelves and arts and crafts. A sensory room was also available to the children. The sensory room was equipped with chairs, various light and sounds making resources, textured materials, music and a starred ceiling.

The children enjoyed freedom of choice of activities in each room. On the morning of the inspection, the staff in the pre-school rooms had set up several special interest areas that the children could choose to engage with, alternatively they were free to explore in the other interest areas. Special interest areas on the morning of the inspection included a messy play farm, magnetic blocks, chalk boards, Montessori toys, modelling clay and arts and crafts. On return from outdoor play children had a choice of these activities along with a selection of puzzles and books from the open shelves.

The children’s artwork was displayed on the walls of the service in each room. Staff had helped the children create areas of familiarity in the classrooms to promote each child’s identity and belonging such as family walls and birthday walls with photos of each child and their families.

### Relationships and interactions around children:

In each of the four classrooms the inspectors observed staff having positive interactions with the children in their care. Staff engaged with the children in activities and conversations taking opportunities to listen actively to the children as they communicated their ideas and needs. The staff used these opportunities to promote the children’s confidence to speak and to develop the children’s communication and social skills. The children demonstrated a comfortable familiarity with the staff caring for them in their rooms and in the service overall.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

*(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

### Compliance Information

1(a)

The service consisted of four main care rooms. In each room there was a range of materials suitable for the ages of the children being cared for in that room. The Wobbler and Toddler rooms had large open spaces and soft play areas for the children. There was low-level shelving with jigsaws, a range of toys and materials in each room. The furniture was suitable to the stage of development of the children attending the service. There were child sized tables and chairs for tabletop activities such as Montessori work, puzzles and eating at snack time. The upstairs pre-school rooms had a wide range of materials such as dress up, arts and crafts, building blocks, messy play areas, farm set up and home corners.

The outdoor space was divided into four separate areas surrounded by a wooden fence. There was a large, covered area available to the children. Soft fall matting and astroturf was present in three of the outdoor areas.

Distinct areas of interest provided children with opportunities to engage in a range of play activities. There was a mud kitchen, swings, ride on toys and a range of open-ended resources were available for use by the children.

(b) On the ground floor there was a large sleep room for the Wobblers and Toddlers who required naps during their time in the service. In the upstairs pre-school rooms, there were suitable rest areas available to the children should they need a rest during the day.

### 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 staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service.

### 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) There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2026 and staff advised that monthly fire drills were completed.

(b) There was a record available demonstrating that the smoke alarm system was last serviced in December 2025 and the firefighting equipment was last serviced in October 2025.

(4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed in a conspicuous position on the premises.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

## Compliance Information

An in-date certificate was in place to demonstrate that the service was insured to provide full day care for the number of children the service is registered to accommodate.