

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016WX003
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Name of Service:	Killegney Early Years
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Address of Service:	Green Lane, Coolaught, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y21 W278
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Name of Registered Provider:	Orlagh Doyle
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	17/07/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	49	PM	47
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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
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Description of service

Killegney Early Years service is a privately operated preschool service. It is located in a rural community outside Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. The service offers full day care and a sessional service to children aged 6 months to 6 years of age. The service operates from 7.45am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday. The service's mission "is to create a childcare service where children are professionally cared for in a relaxing, yet stimulating and enriching environment". Killegney Early Years operates from two renovated buildings and consists of four playrooms, two sleep rooms, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation, staff facilities and a huge emphasis on the outdoor environment with shelters and outdoor playrooms.

Staffing

The service employs 14 staff to work with the preschool children attending the service including the registered provider. There is a designated person in charge on the premises daily who assists across the rooms as needed. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of 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(1)(2)(4) & (9)(7) – Management and Recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2)(4) – Staffing Levels and
Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of the Child.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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.

Additional information

This inspection was triggered by receipt of information to the Inspectorate.

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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service on the inspector's arrival. 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.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. See regulation 23.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file for 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 all staff members working directly with the preschool children available on file.

(9)(7)

New staff who started working in the service said they had an induction process which was supervised by the manager and registered provider. All staff stated they were aware of the policies and procedures in place in the service. There was evidence in place to show that staff had appraisals and were supervised by the manager. Staff who spoke to the inspector were aware of the behavior management plan and prohibited practices and were familiar with their responsibilities as a mandated person in the service. There were also certificates confirming staff had attended training on Children First, Fire Training and First Aid courses.

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. During the morning there were 7 staff caring for 49 children.

During the afternoon there were 6 staff caring for 47 children.

The registered provider was available to assist in the rooms as required.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection.

The routine of the children in the Maple and Chestnut rooms was led by the needs of the child. The daily activities were planned around the routine of the children. For example, the morning snack was offered to children either before or after their mid-morning sleep. The children were provided with opportunities for sensory/messy play and rotated between the indoor and outdoor spaces during the day.

Attention to personal care was evident during the day. For example, children had their hands and faces cleaned after eating, sunscreen was applied as required, nappies were changed, and hands and faces cleaned before settling to sleep. Lunch was offered in small groups and served in the kitchen as they woke after sleeps.

Inside the houses, soft music played in the background creating a calm environment. The staff discussed with the inspector how they moved play equipment and changed the layout of the rooms on a regular basis. Staff were seen to sit and engage in play with the children. Staff offered the children the choices, "will we have our dinner first and then read our book?". Opportunities for sensory/ tactile and messy play were freely available in the rooms and outside areas.

The outdoor areas were fully enclosed which allowed the children space and freedom to fully move around and explore unhampered. The children had access to a large variety of spaces that included shelters, climbing areas,

and rest areas. Older children had spent days making a “B&B” under the trees in the garden and there were cushions, tables, books and a canopy made from a curtain.

The staff were observed interacting positively with children throughout the day. A minor dispute over a new toy was managed calmly by staff by offering an alternative activity. Staff were observed down at the child’s level, listening, asking questions and chatting throughout the service. Staff were clear when talking with the inspector how they managed children’s behaviours in positive ways and were familiar with their responsibilities regarding safeguarding the wellbeing of children in the service.

Throughout the premises, the play and learning were led by the children, with staff observed as facilitators to this play and learning. The physical and material environments were well developed and thought out to encourage exploration and learning. The interest areas set up were rich in learning experiences taking into account the age and stage of development of the children using them.

The registered provider and manager ensured staff were supported and received supervision. The registered provider discussed how risk assessments were carried out and plans were put in place to ensure staff were supported to adhere to the service’s policy and ethos.

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.

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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member with expired Garda vetting has since retired from working in early years.

A system is now in place in our staff files that highlights expiring Garda vetting, this re-vetting process will take place in January of every year.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.