

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017CC500
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Name of Service:	Teach Na Leanaí
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Address of Service:	Gael Scoil de Hide, Dun Eala, Duntahane, Fermoy, Co Cork
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Eircode:	P61 PF63
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Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa Dorgan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	41	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	13 Market Square Mallow Co Cork P51DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	B Fraher
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	N/A
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Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Teach Na Leanaí is a private sessional service in operation since 2017 and is located on the ground floor of Gaelscoil De Híde national school, which is in Duntahane on the outskirts of Fermoy town in Cork. It is registered to accommodate children aged from 2 to 6 years. The Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme is facilitated in two sessions daily. The morning session operates from 8:45 until 11:45 and the afternoon session operates from 12:15 to 15:15, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service has its own entrance in the school and operates from three classrooms. Each of the three large classrooms are fitted with two children's toilets and there is also an adult toilet and child nappy changing area off the corridor. The children have access to outdoor play areas on the school grounds. Car parking facilities are available at the front of the service.

Staffing

There is a total of six staff employed by the service including the registered provider and one Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) support worker. On the day of inspection five staff were working 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 children, registered provider and staff 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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,*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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 registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of inspection and there was a named deputy in the service that could deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge and the deputy were on duty at the service when the inspector arrived. The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy were on duty at all times during the hours of operation.
- (c) There was clear evidence on inspection of the management structure in place and the specific roles of each staff member.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to five adults, all of whom were employed in the service and working directly with the children and the registered provider were the subject of inspection.
- (a) Of the 12 required references, 7 were from previous employers with required records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the 12 required references, 5 were from another source other than a previous employer with a record of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained and were on file for each of the six adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was required and available for two of the six adults as they lived outside of the state for longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) Records demonstrated that the six adults had achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 to level 8 as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children at all times.

There were 41 children with 5 staff members directly supervising them during the morning of the inspection.

(3) The service maintained the minimum adult to child ratio required as per regulation. The ratio was as follows:

- The Roses room, there was 1 adult caring for 10 children.
- The Sunflowers room, there was 1 adult caring for 11 children.
- The Lilys room, there were 3 adults caring for 20 children.

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

Basic needs:

- Snack provided by the parents/guardians was observed to be healthy and nutritious. Children were observed to eat filled sandwiches, waffles, rice cakes, crackers, yogurt and a variety of fruits.
- The children's reusable water bottles were accessible on a low-level shelving in the care rooms.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The children were observed to access the sanitary area independently with the staff available to assist if required.
- Cosy areas were incorporated into each of the playrooms, to accommodate children's need for rest and relaxation.
- Self-help skills were encouraged by the adults who praised each child's efforts. Examples included children observed bringing their snack from the fridge, returning it to their bags for home and zipping up their coats and putting on their outdoor footwear. Staff were nearby to help those who required assistance.
- Children were observed washing their hands before snack time and after using the toilet.
- Outdoor play was promoted and observed at the time of inspection with staff observing and assisting children during play. The inspector observed children playing with bikes, pedal tractors, hula hoops and on a climbing area. Children dressed appropriately wearing coats and hats.
- In conversation, the registered provider and deputy stated that the service communicated with parents and guardians by phone, email or face to face at drop off or collection.

Supporting relationship:

- The adults were observed to show positive regard for the children in all the care rooms on the day of inspection. The children were encouraged and praised during tasks in a warm and caring manner for example when children played with dolls, bricks, completed artwork and played with moulding dough.
- Family photos, birthday calendars and children's artwork were displayed on the walls in the care rooms which promoted a sense of belonging for the children.
- The adults were observed to sit with the children and interact with them through play. The staff encouraged communication and language development through discussing topics of interest with children through the medium of the English and Irish language and staff welcomed children to expand on their discussions. This was observed when children discussed the St. Patricks day parade each taking turns to talk and were encouraged to listen to each other.
- The staff informed the inspector that currently the children had been learning about farm animals and artwork in relation to this was displayed on the walls. A local farmer brought calves to the school on the day of inspection for the children to observe. The children happily asked questions and named the calves afterwards.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The large classrooms had low-level open shelving units which displayed a range of materials and resources which children could freely access. Children were observed to make choices of what they wished to play with, which promoted independence and decision making.

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 entrance door was secured appropriately. This restricted unauthorised access to the building and prevented the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- The windows in the care rooms were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The toys and play equipment assessed were in good condition.
- The outdoor area used on the day of inspection was a safe and secure space for the children with concrete walls and metal fencing. This prevented children gaining unsupervised access to an unsafe area.
- The first aid box was stored out of reach of the children.
- There were no cables or trailing flexes observed to be accessible to the children on the day of inspection.

Infection control:

- Children's coats and bags were stored on hooks or shelves and were off the ground.
- A refrigerator was available in each care room for the storage of perishable foods.
- Handwashing facilities were accessible to the children with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels. Children were observed to wash their hands before meals and after using the sanitary facilities.
- Tissues were available and placed at the children's height helping to prevent the spread of infection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- **Administration of medication:**
- The registered provider informed the inspector that no regular medicine was being administered to a child currently in the service.
- Temperature reducing medicines were stored out of reach of the children and the observed medicine was in date.
- **Fire safety:**
- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.
- Fire extinguishers were secured to the walls.
- **Outing:**
- No outings were conducted on the day of inspection. The registered provider informed the inspector that an outing is taken on a yearly basis. On discussion with the registered provider the risk assessment will be completed prior to the outing where risks will be identified and strategies will be put in place to mitigate against them.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The staff working in the service ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service.

(3)

(b) A daily record of visitors to the premises was kept in visitors logbook. The inspector was requested to signed in and out from the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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)

Up to date records of First Aid Response (FAR) certification were in place for four of the adults working in the service.

(2)

(a) There were two first aid bags and three first aid boxes which were sufficiently stocked and available in the service. These were safely stored out of reach of children.

(b) The first aid supplies were accessible, should they be required.

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.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(c) an authorised person.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) Written records of the fire drills that took place in the service were furnished to the inspector. The last dates recorded for the three care rooms was noted to be in February 2026.
- (b) Written records were available for the servicing of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms. The fire fighting equipment certificate was dated 21 January 2026, and the smoke alarm certificate was dated 5 May 2025.
- (2)
- (c) The records referred to in paragraph (1) were available on the premises for review by the inspector.
- (4) The fire procedures were displayed on the notice board in each care room.