

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2017KK502		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Glenmore Pre-School		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Robinstown, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny		
<b>Eircode:</b>	Y34 KC67		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Jacqueline Walsh		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/01/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Wexford.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<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

This sessional service is located in a rural setting outside the village of Glenmore in south county Kilkenny. The service is located in a village community center in rooms that have been adapted for the sole use of the early preschool service. The service provides a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme to children 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.15am to 12.15pm. The children have the sole use of one preschool room, a large indoor play area and toilets. A large outdoor play area is located directly behind the hall. This is a grassed area accessed through an enclosed yard at the rear of the hall.

### Staffing

There are two staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.

The inspection focused on the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of preschool child,  
Regulation 17 Information for parents,  
Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child,  
Regulation 25 First aid,  
Regulation 26 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 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge; there was also a person available to deputise if required. The registered provider remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were two staff employed in the service.

There were four written references available on file for staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for the two staff members. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for both staff working directly with the preschool children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework

### 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)(3)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children on the day of the inspection.

At 11.00 am

There were 15 children aged from 2 to 6 years in the care of 2 staff.

### 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*

### Compliance Information

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 17 – Information for parents

*A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).*

### Compliance Information

There was an information pack for parents who were proposing to enrol their child in the service. The service sent an e-mail attachment to parents with information as required under regulation 17. The registered provider also facilitated an open day for parents prior to children starting in the service in order to share information and help the children become accustomed to the service. The information booklet provided for parents contained an outline of the curriculum, the hours of operation, contact details and the facilities available within the service. There was also information included on the day to day running of the service.

### 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 preschool room was set up with thought and care. Areas of interest were well developed, for example, there was a dolls house which was resourced with miniature furniture and dolls for the children to play with. The children were observed to take great care in playing with the doll's house in a gentle manner or as the staff encouraged them to have respect for the house. For example, there was a home corner, there were train tracks with a supply of engines, there was a supply of dolls and dolls clothes and buggies for the dolls.

There was original artwork displayed on the walls. Of particular note was a series of photographs taken by the registered provider. This series of photographs showed children carrying out various tasks in the service. For example, washing their hands and getting their lunch boxes out. The registered provider explained this was to prepare the children for the routine in the service.

The outdoor area was well equipped with toys such as slides, tractors and bikes. There were two large tractor tyres for children to play in. The area was situated in the corner of a large field. The grass on the designated play area for the children had recently been cut. The longer grass in the field surrounded this area. Children were encouraged by the staff to use their imaginations in the natural setting. Children were observed enjoying free play. Staff were observed to be constantly engaged with the children in their care. Initiating games and listening to all their chat regarding the fun they were having in the outdoor play area.

(1)(b)

There was a cosy rest area provided for the children in the preschool room. This area consisted of an adult sized leather couch. The couch had a supply of story books beside it for children to look at while they relaxed on the couch.

### 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:

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was secure on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection. The outdoor area was safe, suitable and staff were observed to be vigilant ensuring the children played in the natural boundary created by the long uncut grass.

##### Infection Control

The service was clean with no obvious maintenance required.

The staff were observed to be vigilant in supporting the children in washing their hands before meals. Children lined up in the preschool room to wash their hands. Staff sang songs with them to entertain them while waiting their turn. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot pedal operated bins provided in 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)

There was a person trained in first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position to the staff on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool 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 firefighting 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 records of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was carried out in December 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in November 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

There was insurance in place to cover the number of children who were present on the day of inspection.