

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2017TY087 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Dualla Village Preschool |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Dualla Community Field, Newpark, Dualla, Cashel, Co. Tipperary |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | E25 NX92 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Kelly Reay, Sarah Lawlor |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Part Time |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 10/12/2026 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 22 | PM | N/A |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|

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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).

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| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | N/A |
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### Description of service

Dulla Village Preschool is a part time early years service which provides a play-based programme for children aged 2 to 6 years. Located in a prefabricated building on the ground of Dualla Community Field, on the outskirts of Dualla village, near Cashel, Co Tipperary. The service comprises of one indoor classroom, with children's sanitary accommodation, a covered heated outdoor classroom to the side of the premises and a large tarmac outdoor play area. The service aims to spend as much time outdoors as possible. The service operates 09:20 to 12:30 daily. The service also provides school age care.

### Staffing

The service currently employs eight staff members in total. Six of these staff, including both the registered providers, work directly with the pre-school children daily. Staff members 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) Staffing levels,  
Regulation 21 Equipment and materials,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,  
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, 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 registered providers are the people in charge and oversee the operation of the childcare facility. A second named person in charge can deputise, as required.

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

The staff files for six staff and the registered providers were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each staff member 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 disclosures had been obtained for the eight staff members. In the case of one staff member the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting documentation was available for three staff employed in the service, who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working with 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 managing behaviour
- Policy on accidents and incidents
- Recruitment policy

### 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) There were adequate staffing levels to respond to the children's needs on the day of inspection.

(2) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection were above the minimum regulatory requirements. There were 5 staff working with 22 children.

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

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service consisted of one large pre-school room along with an entrance hall and sanitary accommodation. The indoor environment was warm, bright and well ventilated. A wide variety of defined areas of interest were provided for the children to play with. These included a kitchen and role play area, dress up area, book corner, indoor sand tray, a farm table, arts and crafts and a selection of dolls. Low level shelving provided children with access to a wide selection of activities, suitable for the stage of the children’s development such as Montessori toys and puzzles. Adequate space was available for children to engage in both floor and table play independently and in groups. The room was laid out with appropriately sized furniture. The windows of the service had been painted for Christmas. The walls of the service were decorated with the children’s Christmas artwork. Children’s identity and belonging was fostered through the display of a birthday wall and personalised coat hooks for the children.

The outdoor play area was large and secure with a wide range of activities available to the children. There was a covered area available, a large mud kitchen, sand pit, an area for messy and water play, ride on toys, blocks playhouse and a garden area. As well as the wide range of materials outside for play there was a nature table present in the service. On the morning children were observed to play outside. The service also had access to an astroturf pitch.

### 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 gate to the premises was locked and needed to be buzzed open from the inside, therefore children could not exit the service unsupervised and unsupervised visitors could not enter. The outdoor area was secure to prevent children from leaving. All blind cords were securely mounted out of reach of children. All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to children.

##### Infection control:

There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. There were children's toilets available to the children. Staff toilets were also provided. Handwashing reminders and steps were present in the sanitary accommodation. Children were supported to wash their hands at appropriate times during the day such as after using the toilet. A handwashing sink with warm water was also present in the outdoor area. Pedal bins were in operation to avoid cross contamination. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge.

##### Fire safety:

Fire exits were found to be unobstructed on the day of inspection.  
There were fire evacuation procedures displayed in a prominent area within the service.  
Firefighting equipment was present in the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General safety:

Garda vetting disclosures for one staff member was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General safety:

A renewal of Garda Vetting has been applied for one staff member. Going forward a checklist will be in place to ensure that all staff have the correct vetting and required information when returning or beginning a new role to avoid any future compliance issues.

## Supporting documentation submitted

### General safety:

A copy of the up-to-date Garda vetting has been received by the Early Years Inspector.

## Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

## 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 responder (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 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 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 August 2025 and the firefighting equipment was last serviced on the same date.
- (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 insurance certificate was available for inspection to demonstrate that valid insurance was in place.