

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2018LK503
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Green Kids Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Effin National School, Effin, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V35 RH51
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Niamh O'Sullivan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	05/12/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Offices, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Riordan
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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>	Not applicable
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## Description of service

Green Kids Pre-school is a private sessional pre-school service operating from a classroom in Effin Primary School in Co. Limerick. It operates from 9.00am to 12.00pm, Monday to Friday. There are at present 20 children registered to attend the service. On the day of the Inspection there were 14 preschool children in attendance. The service operates from a large, well-resourced playroom. There are sanitary facilities located directly next to the pre-school room.

Outdoor play facilities included a spacious outdoor playground, an enclosed sheltered space and garden area with a large poly tunnel.

## Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge of running the service. Three additional staff are employed to work at the preschool. Relief staff are also available if required. Each staff working at the service holds a major award in 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.

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) The registered provider was present on the day of the inspection. There was a second person available to deputise if required.

(b) The staff roster indicated that the registered provider or the deputy person were available on the premises every day.

(2)(a) Two written references were available for each staff.

(b) All references were from the previous employers or from reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff working at the facility. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for 1 staff member who had resided outside the state for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All staff held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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 the inspection there were 14 pre-school children under the supervision of the 3 staff members.. The adult/child ratio was above the ratio required under regulation 11.
- (3) The registered providers ensured that at all times the ratio of adults to children present in the service met the requirements of the regulations.

### 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:**

The service maintained a healthy eating policy, requiring parents to provide nutritious snacks stored safely until use. Drinking water was always accessible, with each child having their own bottle accessible to them throughout the morning. Children ate at low tables and staff assisted as needed, while snack times were relaxed. Treats were permitted during special occasions like birthdays. Sanitary facilities were next to the preschool room for easy supervision, and children had unrestricted toilet access. Tissues, wipes, and lidded bins were provided, as well as spare clothes and outdoor gear to ensure daily outside activities regardless of weather. Children could move freely indoors and outdoors, rest on a large couch, and access playgrounds, gardens, and a polytunnel.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The service operated from a spacious classroom with various developmentally appropriate areas such as construction, imaginative play, reading, and messy play. Room layouts and equipment rotated based on children's needs and curriculum. Materials were placed on open shelving for easy access, and child-sized furniture was used for activities and storage. Language and literacy were encouraged through stories, songs, and drama, and children's artwork was displayed. Outdoor areas offered active play and gardening, extending the classroom environment and supporting continuous learning.

### 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 main entrance door to the service was locked and safely secured. The outside play areas were surrounded by high walls and secure gates leading to and from the area.
- Safe storage facilities for all cleaning solutions were provided on high shelves, well out of reach of children. Foot pedal operated lidded bins in the preschool room ensured the safe disposal of all waste.
- The person in charge ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children and adults present in the service.
- Fire doors leading from the preschool were clear and unobstructed.

##### Infection Control:

- Hot water, liquid soap and paper handtowels were provided to ensure safe and adequate handwashing for all children.
- A cleaning programme was available to ensure a high standard of hygiene was maintained in all areas of the preschool.

### 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 at all times a staff member present with an up to date first aid responder training course.

(2)(a) A well-stocked first aid box was available in the preschool room.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the children at all times.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(a) of sound and stable structure,*

*(b) safe and secure,*

*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

*(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

(a) The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure both internally and externally and no obvious defects were noted on inspection.

(b) The premises appeared safe and secured. The front door to the school was locked and all who entered the building were checked in by a member of staff. The outdoor area was well secured preventing any unauthorised access to or exit from this area of the service.

(c) All areas were well lit by natural light and by artificial light when needed. There was no evidence of mould, mildew, stale smells, stuffiness or condensation.

(d) The areas outside were all well maintained and routine cleaning schedules were in place for all internal and external areas. A high standard of operational hygiene was noted in the premises.

(e) There were an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available at the service. A nappy changing facility was available if required.