

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018LK506
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Name of Service:	OneWorld Preschool
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Address of Service:	80 Henry Street Limerick
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Eircode:	V94W0Y8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Suzanne O'Connell
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	05/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	17
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J 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

OneWorld Preschool is registered to operate two sessional services providing care and education to a maximum of 22 pre-school children per session and is opened Monday to Friday each week. The premises is located in Limerick city and operates from 1 playroom with sanitary accommodation facilities adjacent to it. The service has facilities for outdoor play at the rear of the premises where a section has been roofed allowing for children to spend more time outdoors during the sessions.

Staffing

The registered provider and five additional staff work in the service every day. All six staff have childcare qualifications. A student on placement was also present on the day of the inspection.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations

9(1)(a)(b) 2(a)(b)(c)(d), 4,10,11(2),19(1a),23,25(1,2(a)(b),26(1)(a)(b)(4) and 28.

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, person in charge, 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 the person in charge and a named person to deputise as required was available.

(b) The registered provider and the designated person in charge were on the premises when the inspector arrived.

(2)(a) Thirteen written and validated references from past employers were available for staff members. The manager of the service had validated all references that were on file.

(b) One written and validated reference from sources other than a past employer was available where required.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of all staff. Garda vetting documentations for five staff were dated within the last three years as per the regulatory notice EYI-RN12.3 renewal of Garda vetting published by the inspectorate in September 2023 and effective from 01 January 2024. Please refer to Regulation 23 in the body of the report in relation to two additional garda vetting documents.

(d) Police vetting was available for five staff members who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The six staff working directly with the children attending the service held awards in early childhood care and education at Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 reviewed, and they contained the required information to guide staff in relation to the safe care of the children attending the service.

1. Complaints Policy
2. Healthy Eating Policy

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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

(2) An adequate number of staff were working directly with the children for the morning sessional service and the afternoon sessional service.

There were 20 pre-school children aged 3 - 5 years being supervised by 5 staff for the morning sessional service.

There were 17 pre-school children aged 3 - 5 years being supervised by 4 staff for the afternoon sessional service.

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

(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS

The children brought their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included: sandwiches, a selection of fruit, crackers and drinks of water. Drinking water was available throughout the session if a child needed a drink. The children sat together around the lunch tables and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food.

All of the children were toilet trained and toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it. Adults were observed to respond to the children in a timely manner, listened to them and spoke to them using a soft tone of voice and used positive language, engaging them in conversation and giving each child the opportunity to express themselves.

Self-care skills were evident as each child was encouraged to tidy up following play activities, place their lunch boxes in their school bags following snack and to put on their coats to play outdoors.

The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow. The adults modelled positive behaviour for the children and the children were praised for their good behaviour.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

This sessional service was operated from one playroom with sanitary accommodation and facilities for outdoor play available.

Suitable and varied play equipment including sensory play materials such as sand was available in the service. The preschool room was spacious and bright with shelving available to display play equipment. Defined interest areas included a reading area, construction area, home corner, puzzles, manipulative play area, tabletop area, dress up clothes, art area and small world area. Children with additional needs were observed to rest, relax and play in the sensory area off the main playroom. Lighting in this area was reduced, noise was minimal and an adult remained in the area therefore children were under constant supervision of adults.

The curriculum and timetable of activities was displayed and was emergent based and followed children's choices. During the inspection children were observed to play outside for a lengthy period. A 'family wall display' had pictures of each child's family and caregivers which supported their sense of identity and belonging.

Children's bags and coats were hanging on coat hooks and easily identifiable with each child's picture and name on it.

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. Garda Vetting documentation for two staff member present on the day of the inspection were not dated with in the last three years as per the regulatory notice EYI-RN12.3 renewal of Garda vetting published by the inspectorate in September 2023 and effective from 01/01/2024. This posed a potential risk to the safety and wellbeing of children in the service.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety: Up to date garda vetting for both staff is now available.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety: Going forward the registered provider will ensure every staff member has up to date garda vetting.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet the regulatory requirement of Regulation 23.

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) The registered provider and two additional staff members had up to date training in first aid responder for children (FAR).

(2) (a) The first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible position in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

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) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place in October 2025.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment serviced on an annual basis and most recently in October 2025 was available.
- The smoke alarm system was serviced on an annual basis and most recently in March 2025.
- (4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playroom.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance available for the number of children attending the service.