

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018WX503
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Name of Service:	Cloogue Play and Learn
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Address of Service:	C/O Cloogue National School, Cloogue, Camolin, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y21 NY10
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kayleigh Power, Marian Power
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	30/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM	23
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	C. 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).

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Description of service

Cloogue Play and Learn is a privately operated preschool service. It offers a play-based curriculum for children aged 6 months to 6 years of age and is open from 7.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

The preschool service is in the old National School in Cloogue, a rural village. The service consists of three playrooms, a sleep room, sanitary accommodation, indoor and outdoor play areas.

Staffing

There are a total of 10 staff working in the service. The registered provider is the designated person in charge daily and works directly with the children. The staff working directly with children in the service held a combination of the minimum of level 5, 6, 8 and 9 qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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.

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9(1)(2)(4) – Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2) – Staffing Levels,

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Regulation 19 (1)(a) - Health, Welfare and Development of Child,

Regulation 25 – First Aid,

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety and

Regulation 28 – Insurance.

However, on inspection additional non-compliances which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23 and Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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.

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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 on the inspection day. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The files for all staff were reviewed on the day including the student on placement.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for each of the employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. See Regulation 23.

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(d)

Police vetting disclosures were not required as none of the staff had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

There were certificates of qualification for the staff members working directly with the preschool children available on file.

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)(2)

During the inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

During the morning there were 7 staff caring for 27 children.

During the afternoon there were 8 staff caring for 23 children.

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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)

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection:

The children from the ECCE and toddler rooms enjoyed time outside during the morning and afternoon. They were observed to transition calmly back into their playrooms, where they washed their hands and sat together to read stories, have their food and snacks and prepare for a sleep/quiet time.

Children from the toddler room decided to enjoy their mid-morning snacks outside during the morning. The snack and mealtimes observed during the inspection were relaxed and a social experience for the children. Staff helped as needed with opening lunches boxes and they shared their news and planned their next activity. Attention to personal hygiene was observed, with staff seen to clean children's faces after eating and periodically during the day. After the children ate their snacks, staff set up sleep mats for the children to sleep and rest. The rooms were dimmed with soft lighting and music played to create a calm atmosphere. The sleep needs of the babies in the baby room were led by the children, with the staff familiar with the individual routines of the babies.

The baby's needs were met in a warm caring responsive manner, with staff observed to pick up cues from children when they showed signs of tiredness or needed their nappy changed. Staff discussed with the inspector how they facilitated toilet training for children when they showed signs of readiness in coordination with the parents.

Children were settled, familiar and confident in the surroundings and were observed enjoying playing games and were engaged in play and table activities. They enjoyed talking with the inspector, talking about their rooms and toys.

During the inspection, the children had access to a wide range of toys, materials and equipment such as dolls house, construction, kitchen/home corners, art and craft materials, play dough and books. Low level tables and chairs and open shelving allowed the children to freely and easily access toys and materials. The play equipment was varied and included open ended, loose parts, and natural equipment and materials. The playrooms were designed to support the individual ages and developmental stages of the children using them. For example, the baby room has soft matting, climbing toys and push toys that supported crawling and pre walking children.

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Staff were observed to speak to each other in a professional and warm manner, working as a team to meet the changing needs of the children throughout the day. The staff discussed how they transitioned the children between the rooms during the summer and were familiar with the individual children's likes, dislikes and habits. Children's artwork, photographs, family walls and birthday charts were displayed throughout the playrooms and service, supporting the children's sense of identity and belonging in the service.

The outdoor areas provided opportunities for a variety of play experiences including sensory play, gross motor and imaginative. There was sufficient space for the children. The area consisted of a large enclosed concreted space and larger grass area. The outdoor space was fully enclosed. A smaller inner courtyard was available also to children.

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. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. There were Garda vetting disclosures on file for all staff members, however the vetting disclosure for 2 staff members were not dated within the previous 3 years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda vetting.

Infection Control:

2. A number of staff involved in nappy changing were observed to have long, pointy and painted nails and wore bracelets and rings which posed as a risk to children's skin and was at variance with good infection control practices.

Administration of Medication:

3. A sample of administration of medication record forms were reviewed. A number of the records indicated that written parental consent was not obtained.

Safe Sleep:

4. The sleep mats used for the children in the ECCE room were not suitable for children to use for sleep. They consisted of carpet type material and were not conducive to comfortable sleep on the floor.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

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The registered provider submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The garda vetting has been renewed. We have added a new template to the cover of each file and will ensure we review expiry dates on a regular basis.
2. All staff have received a policy on hand hygiene with regards to nails, an updated staff book, a policy on jewellery and nails. All staff have signed this policy. This policy will be reviewed, and all staff will be checked randomly by management to make they are adhering to the above policy.
3. All consent forms are now signed by parents. All staff have a checklist now attached to the administration of medication book this is the protocol for all admin of medication.
4. We are in the process of finding sleep mats that are suitable to our service and have linked in with various suppliers and early years settings. Once the new sleep mats are in place we will ensure that good sleep practices are followed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Garda vetting disclosures, infection control policy, medication policy, medication check list.

Summary Comment

The response submitted was satisfactory.

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 seven people trained in a first aid responder (FAR) course immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid boxes stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which were available to the children attending the preschool service.

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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)

Fire drills were completed monthly. The last fire drill completed was recorded on the 27 March 2026.

(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in November 2025.

(4)

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had a valid certificate of insurance for full day care for 41 children.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

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Regulation 29 - Premises

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

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

Non -Compliance Information

Some areas within the service required of maintenance and cleaning. For example:

Areas in the playrooms and around the service required dusting and cleaning.

In the small front outdoor play area, a broken timber kitchen was rotten and broken and was accessible to children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective and Preventive Action

In our setting we have exceptionally high ceilings as it is an old schoolhouse, we have liaised with an external cleaning company who are willing to come and clean the high ceilings and dusting of high areas monthly. This will help combat this issue and help us stay on top of maintenance such as cleaning of Velux windows and any higher areas that we cannot reach.

Our cleaning sheet for sterilisation, toy rotations and deep cleaning now includes reminder box to check these areas and contact the company to make sure work is being carried out effectively.

Supporting documentation submitted

Contract cleaner contact details.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response that was satisfactory.