

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2019TY006
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Ready Steady Go Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	St Joseph's National School, Corville, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Lorraine Keeshan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	06/11/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	42	PM	15
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	North Tipperary Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L McGeeney and R Phillips
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors
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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

This full day care service was established in 2019 to provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old. A registered school aged care service is also provided to children aged between 4 and 12 years old. The service operates Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. This includes a three-hour sessional service that operates Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm for 38 weeks of the year. Places in the sessional service are funded under the early childhood care and education scheme for eligible children.

The service was operated from two connected, single storey, modular buildings located in the grounds of St Joseph's National School, Corville, near the town of Roscrea in north Tipperary. The service consists of two activity rooms, sanitary, office, kitchen, accommodation areas, outdoor classroom and outdoor play areas.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service on daily basis as the service manager and provides relief in the rooms when required. There are eight staff employed to work directly with the children, six of whom were present in the service on the day of inspection. Staff held recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5, 6 or 8 on the national framework of qualifications, or their 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(2)(4)(7), 11(1)(2)(4)(8), 15, 16, 19(1)(a), 22, 25 and 26.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child.

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 inspectors wish 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

*(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.*

*(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:*

*(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

*(b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and*

*(c) these Regulations.*

#### Compliance Information

The staff files of the registered provider and eight members of staff were reviewed as part of the inspection service:

(2)(a) Written, validated references from past employers were available in respect of the nine members of staff.

(b) Written, validated references from a source other than a past employer were available in respect of five members of staff.

(c) Garda vetting had been carried out in respect of all members of staff and relevant documents were kept on file. The service had a system in place to ensure that re-vetting of staff was carried out a three-yearly basis, in line with best practice.

(d) Police vetting had been carried out in respect of staff who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or longer. Relevant documents were kept on file.

(4) All staff held recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5, 6 or 8 on the national framework of qualification or a letter from the Minister stating that they had equivalent qualifications which were suitable for working with children in an early years setting.

(7) The service supported staff to engage in regular training and ongoing professional development including food hygiene, first aid and manual handling.

### 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.*

*(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*

*(a) a sessional pre-school service, and*

*(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

### Compliance Information

(1) There were 6 staff working directly with 42 children aged between 2 years 11 months and 5 years old. The children and staff were divided between two rooms with 19 children and 3 staff in the Red room (Junior Pre-school room) and 23 children with 3 staff in the green room (Senior Pre-school room). The registered provider was also present and available to relieve in the rooms and to prepare the hot meal of the day.

By 2.30pm there were 15 pre-school aged children and 3 school aged children being supervised by 4 staff between the 2 rooms. The presence of the school aged children did not have a negative impact on the adult to child ratio required by the pre-school children.

(2) and (4) The adult to child ratios were maintained at greater than the minimum requirements throughout the day.

(8)(a) There were at least two staff present in the service at all times while it was in operation.

### 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.*

- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,
  - (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and
  - (c) an authorised person.

### Compliance Information

A sample of six completed registration forms were assessed as part of the inspection process:

- (1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation.
- (3) The registration forms were available in the service for inspection by an authorised person.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:
- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
  - (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;
  - (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;
  - (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;
  - (e) the facilities available;
  - (f) the opening hours and fees;
  - (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
  - (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
  - (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
  - (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

(1) The service had a record in writing of the information required under parts (a) to (k) of this regulation.

(3) The records were available for inspection by an authorised person.

## 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 was observed on the day of inspection through direct observation, review of records and discussion with staff.

Basic and Individual care needs:

The staff supported the children with hand washing after outdoor play, and after using the toilet, and before meals.

Staff and children sat together during snack and meal times. The staff supported the children with their meals, also encouraging independence. The food was eaten in a relaxed atmosphere and children were given as much time as they needed to eat.

The staff promoted independence when the children were using the toilet, supervising by sight or sound as required.

### Supporting Relationships:

Staff were observed responding to the children's needs, speaking in gentle tones when children were upset. The children were observed choosing what toys or activities they wanted. Staff described supporting emerging interests with their activities.

The staff recognised the value of dividing the children into smaller groups for activities with a key worker approach and described getting to know the children better.

There was a couch in each care room, suitable for and used by the staff to sit with an upset child to comfort them. Children's art work was displayed.

The registered provider communicated with parents face to face, through a messaging service, a parents information leaflet and regular newsletters.

### Physical and Material Environment:

The red room layout facilitated supervision of all the children present during a variety of activities, and children were observed choosing to opt out of the activities to rest or engage with another activity.

Both care rooms were adequately equipped with play-based materials, on accessible low-level shelving. The children had access to arts and crafts materials, jigsaws and puzzles to promote fine motor development.

The children had access to an outdoor play area that was suitable, safe and secure. There was soft fall covering on the ground under the climbing frame and slide. There was a swing and slide and climbing wall, a play house and chalk boards outside. The children had footballs to promote their gross motor skills.

### Programme of Activities:

A programme of activities was evident, with a list of activities in the care room, (Yoga, dance, songs) but children's choice to opt out was facilitated.

Language development was promoted through individual and group conversations with staff and children, as well as singing songs and storytelling.

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

#### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy and healthy eating was observed to be encouraged within the service. Parents supplied the children’s packed lunch and snacks while the service supplied a hot, nutritious meal at 1pm each day, in line with the three-week menu plan. The hot meal was provided frozen by a catering company, then defrosted and re heated on site when required. The service was sampling a new dish (macaroni and cheese with peas and corn) on the day of inspection to assess whether they wanted to add it to the menu. The children were offered an alternative if they did not want the meal on offer. The children had access to their own water bottles throughout the inspection. The children had access to healthy snacks from a trolley, kept beside the entrance door where the children could select what they wanted at any time during the day, namely bananas, raisins and apples.

### 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 held current certification in first aid response (FAR) and three staff present on the day of inspection held current paediatric first aid certification.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the office where it could be easily accessed when required.

(b) The first aid box was available if required by a child 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 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) The service maintained written records of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service, most recently on 25 October 2024.
- (b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service, both of which were last serviced in November 2023.
- (4) There were notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed on the walls of the service.