

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021LS001		
Name of Service:	Lisgorm Services Ltd T/A Leabh Mo Chroi		
Address of Service:	Mooreville, Rathdowney, Co. Laois		
Eircode:	R32 P2K8		
Name of Registered Provider:	Rosaleen Fairbrother		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	10/03/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	47	PM 44
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.		
Inspection undertaken by:	K. Murphy		
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.		

Description of service

The age range of children that the service is registered to accommodate is 0 to 6 years of age. This full day care service operates between the hours of 07:00 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. The service is operated by an independent provider as part of a multiple. The Early Years' Service is located in a purposely adapted two storey building. Two pre-school rooms are located on the ground floor and two pre-school rooms are located on the first floor. A lift operates from the ground to the first floor for accessibility. A sleep room, a kitchen and a sluice room are provided. A staff room is located adjacent to the service. Outdoor play areas are attached to the rear of the service. Onsite parking and set down facilities are provided. The service is in an urban setting in a residential area in the town of Rathdowney, County Laois.

Staffing

The registered provider employs sixteen staff members. There were twelve adults present on 10 March 2026. The person in charge and nine childcare practitioners were working directly with the children. One support staff member was employed to prepare the snacks and meals for the children and another rostered childcare practitioner came on duty in the afternoon. The registered provider was not present during the inspection but attended the closing meeting via telephone. The person in charge was present throughout the inspection and attended the closing meeting.

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:

- Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1)(a)(b) (2) (4)
- Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)
- Regulation 19 Health Welfare and Development of Child (1)(a)
- Regulation 20 Facilities for Rest and Play
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child
- Regulation 24 Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance (3)(a)(b) (4)
- Regulation 25 First Aid
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures (1)(a)(b) (4)
- 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 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*

(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 person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The person in charge was present for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider was unable to be present during the inspection but attended the closing meeting by telephone.

Seventeen staff files including the file of the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers in respect of the staff members.

(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from a source other than a past employer in respect of the staff members. Two written references were available from a source other than a past employer in respect of the registered provider.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the seventeen files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was available in respect of seven staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

All staff members working directly with children held a major award at level 5 to 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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.

(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)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was in place during the inspection.

(2)

There were forty-seven children attending the service supervised directly by ten adults in the morning. There were forty-four children attending the service supervised directly by nine adults in the afternoon.

(8)(a)

The staff roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development. Adults were observed to be positive towards children evidenced by individual names used, eye contact and praise for children on completion of activities. The children were encouraged to be independent and their choices were supported. Staff were observed to offer praise to each child for their involvement in activities.

A regular schedule of snacks and meals was provided to the children during the inspection. The main meal was served in the afternoon and consisted of roast chicken, turnip, carrot, potato and gravy with milk and water to drink. Bibs were worn by young children to protect their clothes at mealtimes.

Nappy changes were carried out at regular scheduled intervals and on an individual need's basis.

Children attending the baby room slept on a need's basis. Soothers were stored in individually named containers. All children were observed to enjoy free play, choosing their own activity to participate in and playing in the outdoor play areas supervised by staff.

A range of developmentally appropriate experiences and materials were available for all children both indoors and outdoors. In the pre-school rooms low level tables and chairs were in place. Low-level shelving with equipment and materials were accessible to the children. Artwork and seasonally themed decorations were noted.

A verbal handover was observed to parents at collection time. The service worked in partnership with parents and used a daily record book to share information with parents regarding children's sleep times, food intake, nappy changes and general activities during the day.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider-

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016

shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment were provided indoors and outdoors which incorporated areas with toys and equipment for arts and crafts, home corners, interest areas and tabletop activities.

(b)

Soft furnishings provided suitable and adequate rest facilities in the pre-school rooms. Low level beds were available for children over the age of two who required rest or sleep. A separate sleep room was located adjacent to the baby room on the ground floor. Individual identifiable cots were in place for the children.

Each cot had a waterproof mattress and fitted sheet. A wall mounted air conditioning unit was in place to maintain an appropriate sleep room temperature. A cot with wheels was in place for evacuation purposes if required.

(2)(a)

A large outdoor play area was located to the rear of the service and available for children. A wood chip area was also available and equipped with a large climb/ slide / swing unit. The perimeter was secured by a high-level concrete wall. A separate play area with an all-weather absorbent surface was located outside the baby room and equipped with a climb/ slide unit and a selection of push pull toys.

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 was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

Cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. The toys and materials were easily cleanable. Warm running water, liquid soap and hand towel dispensers were available in the sanitary accommodation and nappy changing area. The nappy changing practice observed was carried out as per the service procedure. Openable windows for ventilation and foot operated pedal bins for the hygienic disposal of waste were provided in the pre-school rooms and associated sanitary accommodation.

Administration of Medication:

No medication was administered during the inspection. Temperature reducing medication was available in a secure location in the service if a child presented with a high temperature.

Safe Sleep:

A record of the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children was noted in a sleep log. Sleeping children from the baby and wobbler rooms were physically checked every ten minutes by a staff member.

Fire Safety:

The emergency exit routes were unobstructed from the premises. A fire assembly point was noted to the front of the service.

Outing:

The person in charge stated that outings were not carried out from the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(3)(a)

All entry to the service with the exception of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) must be approved by a staff member.

(b)

A visitor log was in place to record the details and purpose of all visitors to the service.

(4)

The visitor log is retained throughout the annual operation of the service.

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)

Five staff members were qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) and were rostered to be available on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

First aid boxes were identifiable and readily available on the ground and first floor in the service.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to the adults caring for the children in the pre-school 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)

Written records for completed fire drills were available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 11 February 2026.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment in the premises were serviced in June 2025. The smoke alarms in the premises were serviced in February 2026.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in conspicuous positions throughout the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service. The expiry date noted was 27 March 2026.