

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022KY002				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Sheilann's Early Learning Centre				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Tureencahill, Gneeveguilla, Co. Kerry				
<b>Eircode:</b>	P51 T663				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sheilann Moynihan				
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional				
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	12/09/2024				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>10</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	10	PM	N/A
AM	10	PM	N/A		
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	13 Market Square, Mallow, Cork. P51 DD5Y				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E. Friel				
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Sheilann’s Early Learning Centre is a private sessional service in operation since September 2022. It offers early years care and education to children aged from 2 years to 6 years facilitating the Early Years Care and Education (ECCE) between the hours of 09:00 am until 12:00 pm, Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year.

Sheilann’s Early Learning Centre is located near Gneeveguilla, a small rural village in East County Kerry. The service is situated at the front of Tureencahill Community Centre and consists of a large single care room, a second interconnecting care room is available but is not currently in use. There are 2 children’s toilets, and an adult toilet located in the main corridor of the service. The children have access to a secure outdoor play area, located at the front of the building.

### Staffing

There are two staff currently employed in the service including the registered provider. A relief staff member is available to provide cover in the event of illness or an emergency.

### 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.

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, deputy 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,*
- (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 designated person in charge and a named person was available to deputise.
- (b) The registered provider and the deputy were available, on the premises, while the pre-school children were present.
- (2) Recruitment files for all three adults were reviewed;
- (a) There were six validated references from past employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau had been obtained for all three adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Review of the staff files indicated that there were no overseas police vetting disclosures required as none of the adults resided outside the State for a period of six consecutive months or longer as adults.
- (4) Qualification certificates on file for all three adults indicated that each adult had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, ranging from levels 5 to level 9, on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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) The inspector observed that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times.
- (3) There were 10 sessional children in attendance with 2 adults from 9.00 am until 12 noon when the sessional service finished.

## 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:

- Snacks served at 11.15 am, which had been prepared by the parents/guardians, were observed to be healthy and nutritious. Examples included mixed sandwiches, crackers, yogurts, fruit and vegetables. Staff stated foods that are not in the healthy eating policy are returned home in the children's lunch boxes and alternative food is available in the service, if required.
- Children were observed accessing individual water bottles, which were easily accessible from a basket placed on top of the fridge. Age and stage appropriate cutlery and crockery were also available for the children, if required.
- The service supported children to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious food choices with posters made by the children displaying paper wrappers and pictures of healthy food.
- Children had access to the sanitary area as and when required.
- Transitional activities were available for children who had put their snack away. Two children remained at the table until they had finished and then joined the others.
- A quiet area where children could have the opportunity to rest/relax with soft seating in the form of child size couches, cushions, and matting was available in an area of the care room. Staff and children were observed in this area throughout the morning.

##### SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIPS:

- Activities were carried out with staff and children using single words in multiple languages, including Irish and Polish, ensuring all children were included.
- Staff sat with children at snack time where the atmosphere was observed to be happy and relaxed. Children and staff were heard in discussion regarding what the children had eaten for breakfast before coming to pre-school.

- Children were encouraged and supported throughout the morning with self-help skills including collecting their perishable food from the fridge, putting on and taking off their outdoor clothing and putting their bee photo onto a hive to mark their attendance in the pre-school on the day. All of these activities helped to promote independence.
- Staff stated that communication with parents/guardians happens mainly at drop off and collection where information is received and exchanged. A group and individual messaging application is in use along with a seasonal newsletter and emails for more general information.
- Staff meetings were stated as happening informally with the majority of the time spent discussing the planning of the activities which are based primarily on the interests of the children. The staff members were observed working in partnership on the morning of the inspection; communicating with each other around the morning's activities and the children's individual needs.

#### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The care room was laid out in clearly defined areas with resources which provided opportunities to enhance the learning needs of the children across all developmental areas.
- Age and stage appropriate equipment and materials were available from the many baskets stored within easy reach on low-level shelving in the care room.
- Suitable age-appropriately sized tables and chairs were available in the care room which provided opportunities for the pre-school children to sit together in a group or individually on their own.
- Children were observed playing in the outdoor play area, which included a large concrete area and a covered shed, offering alternative environments for the children to play in and explore in all weathers. A range of developmentally appropriate toys and materials were provided in the fully secured area. Opportunities for practicing gross motor skills of running, climbing, sliding, pedalling and swinging were observed with children observed accessing swings, tractors, tricycles and slides, within the large, covered area. Imaginary play areas were available including a wooden house while sand and water troughs were in use providing sensory experiences and opportunities for open ended play.

#### PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

- Details of the long-, medium- and short-term planning of the service were available and evidenced in the care room. Staff stated curriculum planning happened informally each day and weekly.
- Children's language and development was supported through one to one and group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed during the morning. Examples included discussions about who lives

in each child's house, individual requests by the children for the registered provider to play on the guitar and the story of the "Tiger Who Came To Tea".

### 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 care room door was secured with a thumb twist cylinder ensuring children could not leave the room unsupervised.
- The store room cupboard in the corridor was locked preventing the children gaining access to an unsafe area.
- Windows in the care room were inaccessible to the children and fitted with restrictors.
- Hand rails were fitted to the outside ramp offering support for children to walk to and from the outside play area.
- Flexes for a speaker were placed out of reach of the children in the care room on a shelf.
- Cleaning agents were located on a high shelf in the sanitary area, out of the children's reach.
- The perimeter of the outdoor play area was secured with high metal fencing, tall trees and two large metal gates with sliding bolts.

##### Infection Control:

- Handwashing was observed after toileting and outdoor play, and before and after food. An adult was available nearby to provide assistance and remind children to roll up their sleeves.
- Sinks in use by the children were supplied with thermostatically controlled hot water, dispensing soap and hand towels, aiding hygienic handwashing and drying.
- Pictorial instructions were displayed in the children's sanitary area reminding children of the procedures for hygienic handwashing.
- Children were observed taking their perishable food from the fridge at snack time, preventing the food from spoiling.
- Tissues were placed within reach of the children helping to reduce the spread of infection

- Children's coats and bags were hung on hooks in the corridor, off the floor area.
- The sanitary cleaning schedule was observed to be completed and up to date.

### Administration of Medication:

- Anti-febrile medication was stored in its original container and located on a high shelf in a cupboard, which was inaccessible by the children.

### Safe Sleep:

- No children were observed sleeping on the morning of the inspection.

### Outing:

- The registered provider stated that no outings take place in the service.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

- (1) The main entrance door could not be appropriately secured from the inside as children had access to the push bar which was located within reach. There was no means available of securing the door, from the inside, should an unsupervised child push the bar which lead to the ramp to the outdoor play area.

### Infection Control:

- (2) There was a swing bin in use in the children's toilets posing a risk of cross contamination. The inspector observed various children throughout the morning place their hands on top of the bin to dispose of paper waste.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

The following statements were received from the registered provider;

### General Safety:

- (1) The main entrance door has been secured to ensure the children cannot leave the service unsupervised.

### Infection Control:

- (2) A new pedal operated bin has been purchased for the children's sanitary area.

### Supporting documentation submitted

The following photographic evidence was received in the office of the inspectorate;

### General Safety:

- (1) The new security device attached to the main entrance door.

### Infection Control:

- (2) The new pedal operated bin installed in the children's sanitary area.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection under 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

- (2)
- (a) (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored above the shelf of the adult desk in the care room and was available throughout the inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1) While there was an adult trained in paediatric first aid available to the children at all times there was no adult with a current First Aid Responder (FAR) certificate. In conversation, the registered furnished evidence of confirmation of FAR training which was booked for 16/17 September 2024.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The following statement was received from the registered provider;

- (1) The First Aid Responder training was completed, and a copy of the certificate sent on as proof. A provisional date has been booked for 2026 to ensure that there is an adult available to the children at all times with FAR training.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

The following documentation was received in the office of the inspectorate;

- (1) A copy of the First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificate with an expiry date of 16 September 2024

### Summary Comment

The action taken by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance found under Regulation 25 (1).

## 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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 were available of the monthly fire drills which took place in the service. The date of the most recent fire drill was recorded on the month the service was last opened; 4 June 2024.
  - (b) Written records were available detailing the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm servicing. The firefighting equipment certificate was dated 15 November 2023, and the smoke alarm certificate was dated 24 June 2024.
- (2) (c) The above records were open to review by the inspector on the service on the day.
- (4) The notice of the fire drill safety procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were located on the notice board in the hall corridor.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

- Staff were observed, throughout the morning, escorting children to and from the sanitary area which was located along the corridor from the care room.
- The layout of the care room allowed staff to easily supervise the children as they moved between the designated areas.
- The inspector observed that the numbers of children were counted by a staff member before going outdoors and before coming back inside from outdoor play by a child assisted by an adult.
- Staff were observed supervising children who were climbing and sliding on the slides and children who were swinging on the swings in the outdoor play area, reminding children of the safe distance for walking around the swings while they were in operation.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Documentation was available to evidence that the registered provider had insurance for the service. The certificate evidenced that the service was insured for 22 children on a sessional basis and expiry date was noted as 27 March 2025. Details included cover for public liability and fire and theft.