

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022LK001
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Coolmine Mid-West Early Years Service
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Mahon House, 25 Upper William Street, Limerick, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 T8KR
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Anita Harris
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Drop-In
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	29/01/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	2	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Ryan
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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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 is a registered full day care and drop-in service which operates from Coolmine Mid-West, Mahon House 25 Upper William Street, Limerick City. Coolmine Mid-West is a drug and alcohol treatment centre that offers help to women to overcome addiction and support recovery. It provides childcare to women accessing the various programmes offered in the centre. The service caters for children aged 0 to 6 years.

The registered full day care and drop-in service operates from Room 1, Monday to Friday (five days a week) running from 10:00hrs to 12:00hrs and 14:00hrs to 16:00hrs. A maximum of 5 pre-school children will attend at any one time. Room 2 will operate from Monday to Friday running from 08:45hrs to 16:00hrs. A maximum of 8 preschool children will attend at any one time. Parents of the children attending full time will take their child out of the full day care room at 13.00hrs where they will go to the dining room and have dinner with their child. Parents can then return their child to the room at 14.00hrs for the afternoon until 16.00hrs.

### Staffing

The service has five staff working directly with the children including the designated person in charge. All of the adults working directly with the children hold a qualification in early years care and education, ranging from level five to eight on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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 the following regulations;

Regulation 9 1(a)(b) 2(a)(b)(c)(d) 4

Regulation 11 (1)

Regulation 15

Regulation 19 1(a)

Regulation 24 1 2 (a)(b)

Regulation 25 1 2 (a)(b)

Regulation 26 1 (a)(b) 4

Regulation 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 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 designated person in charge on the day of the inspection was present and there was a named person also present who was able to deputise if required.

(b) The staff roster indicated that the designated person in charge attended the service every day from time of opening to time of closure.

(2)(a) Two written references were available for all five staff working at the service. One new member of staff had commenced working in the service since the last inspection.

(b) References were from previous employers or from sources other than past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff working in the preschool. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had worked longer than six consecutive months outside the jurisdiction.

(4) All staff held an appropriate qualification in early childhood care and education.

### 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) On the day of the inspection there were 2 pre-school children under the supervision of two staff members. An additional member of staff was available to cover breaks. The adult/child ratio was correct in the facility.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a-i) A sample of six registration forms for the preschool children were examined and all of the forms contained the required information.

### 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 services objective was to ensure that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. A healthy eating policy was available at the service and parents supplied a healthy snack and lunch each day for their child. Fruit, sandwiches, yogurts and crackers were observed in the children's lunch boxes and healthy drinks were readily accessible to them.

Children used the sanitary facilities independently or were accompanied by staff if required. Sanitary facilities were a short distance from both rooms with hygienic nappy changing facilities available. Hand washing by children took place at the wash hand basin in the playrooms which helped prevent cross infection.

Comfortable inviting rest areas were available in both rooms of the service which children were observed to use when they choose to opt out of an activity and play or read alone.

Staff were observed interacting well with the children, using soft tones of voice, using the child's name and getting down to their level and making eye contact.

#### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The physical and material environment of the service was planned and organised to ensure each child's learning was facilitated. Both rooms had many interest areas well developed which included a construction area, a home corner equipped with a play kitchen, dolls and prams, an imagination play area with dolls houses, a relaxation reading corner with soft furnishings located next to a book stand, an art/craft area with lots of paper and painting materials.

Children had access to a variety of materials and equipment which were rotated to suit the changing abilities and interests of the children and the changing curriculum plans throughout the year.

Staff ensured that children spent time outdoors every day as they went on outings to the local park.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

*(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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) Staff ensured that each pre-school child attending the service was checked in and out of the service as evidenced on the roll book.

(3) Staff ensured that-

(a) No person other than the following were allowed entry to the premises without approval.

(i) A Pre-school child attending the service.

(ii) A person dropping or collecting such a child.

(iii) An employee.

(iv) An unpaid worker.

(b) A daily record in writing was kept of all adults who entered the premises.

### 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 person in charge held current certification in first aid response for children.
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box safely stored and easily accessible in the service.
- (b) The first aid box was available at all times if required for a child.

## 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 alarm.
- (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 monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place in December 2025.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced in February 2025 and a record was maintained of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms which were serviced in October 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available for the service and had an expiry date of 31/03/2026.