

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022LK005
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Oakleigh Kids Academy Crecora Pre-school
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ballyshane, Crecora, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 KH50
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Helena O'Neill
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	27/01/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Offices, Second Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Riordan
<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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Oakley Kids Academy Pre-school is a private sessional pre-school service operating from the Crecora Community Centre in Co. Limerick. It operates Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.00pm. The service can cater for a maximum of 22 pre-school children at any one time.

The service operates from a large well-resourced room with sanitary accommodation next to the pre-school room. A large enclosed outdoor area at the rear of the building is accessible for outdoor play.

### Staffing

The registered provider has employed 1 staff to work at the service. A relief staff member is also available. Both staff have the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education, and both participate in continued professional development on an ongoing basis.

### 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.

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 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 of operating the service was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection and at all times while the service was operational there was a designated person in charge present at the facility.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references from past employers were available for the registered provider, the designated person in charge and a relief staff member who was all available to work at the service.

(b) All references were from past employers and references from other reputable sources were not required.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required for any staff members working at the facility

(4) All staff working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

## 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) On the day of the inspection there were 9 pre-school children and 1 adult on the premises. The adult child ratio was correct in the facility.

(3) The registered provider ensured that the correct adult/child ratios were maintained at all times at the service.

### 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:**

The service maintained a healthy eating policy, with parents supplying nutritious snacks for lunch. Children had easy access to their water bottles throughout the morning. Sanitary facilities were adjacent to the pre-school room and available at all times, equipped with hot water, soap, and paper towels. Waste was disposed of in pedal-operated lidded bins. Spare clothes and protective gear were provided for messy activities, and tissues and wipes were accessible within easy reach.

A soft couch, cushions, and floor mats offered a comfortable resting area near the library corner for tired children. Outdoors, children could freely use the outdoor facility at the rear of the premises., with wellingtons and raingear provided for all weather conditions.

##### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

The pre-school room was observed to be a spacious, well-organised environment designed to meet the needs of both children and adults. The area was equipped with a diverse range of materials and equipment, which were rotated regularly to align with evolving programmes, interests, and skill levels. Child-sized tables and chairs were centrally positioned to support tabletop activities, while toys and resources were stored on accessible, low-level open shelving to encourage independent choice and engagement. Children's artwork and items of interest were prominently displayed at their eye level, fostering a sense of belonging and pride.

Children participated daily in activities within the well-equipped outdoor play garden located at the rear of the premises. This area offered a broad spectrum of play opportunities, including running, climbing, ball games, balancing, sensory exploration, and interaction with nature through planting and gardening.

A dedicated space was also provided for the use of ride-on bikes, trikes, and hoppers. Additionally, a large wooden shed was available for children who wish to work or play in a sheltered outdoor space. This was also used to store

outdoor play materials in poor weather. Supervision was maintained at all times while children were outdoors to ensure their safety.

## 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 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 carried out monthly. According to the documented record of drills, the most recent drill took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2025.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises with the most recent service of fire extinguisher completed in September 2025.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed next to the fire exit door in the preschool room.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (a) The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure both internally and externally and no obvious defects were noted on inspection.
- (b) The premises indoors and outdoors appeared safe and secured. The entrance door was locked on arrival and all who entered the premises were checked in by an authorised person. The key to the door was safely stored close to the door but well out of reach of children.
- (c) All areas were well lit by natural light and by artificial light when needed. There was no evidence of mould, mildew, stale smells, stuffiness or condensation.
- (d) All areas inside and outside were well maintained, and routine cleaning schedules were in place for all areas.
- (e) There were an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins in the service for the number of children and adults present each day.