

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024LK002
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Name of Service:	Tineteriffe Preschool
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Address of Service:	Tineteriffe National School Pallasbeg Cappamore Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 E670
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Name of Registered Provider:	Claire McNamara
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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).

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Description of service

Tineteriffe preschool is a registered sessional service operating from a room in the national school located outside the village of Cappamore in Co. Limerick. Operational hours are from Monday to Friday 9:15hrs - 12:15hrs for 38 weeks of the year with a maximum of 22 children allowed attend. There is one playroom indoors and it has sole access to an outdoor play area located at the rear of the service. Suitable sanitary facilities for both adults and children are available. A breakfast club and a school aged service also operate from this room.

Staffing

Three staff are employed in the service on a daily basis who have childcare qualifications and two additional staff who have a management role are available to provide relief cover also.

The registered provider does not work in the service on a daily 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4) – Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11(1) - Staffing levels.

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Regulation 15(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f) (g)(h) and (i) - Record of pre-school child.

Regulation 16(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f) (g)(h)(i)(j) and (k) - Record in relation to pre-school service.

Regulation 19 (1)(a) - Health, welfare and development of the child.

Regulation 25(1)(2)(a) and (b) - First aid.

Regulation 26(1)(a)(b) and (4) - Fire safety measures.

Regulation 28 - Insurance

Regulation 29(d) - Premises

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.

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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) There was a named person in charge, and a deputy was available to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection the person in charge was present and the staff roster indicated that the person in charge or the deputy were available on the premises each day.

(2) The files of 5 staff members working in the service were reviewed.

(a) There were 9 written references submitted by staff from previous employers on file of which all had been validated.

(b) There was 1 written and validated reference submitted by staff from sources other than past employers.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for all five staff employed to work in the service. 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.

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(d) Police vetting was available for a member of staff who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The five staff members had appropriate childcare 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.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of the inspection there were 2 staff working with and supervising 10 preschool children present in the morning session.

The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained and an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

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.*

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Compliance Information

(1) A sample of thirteen records for preschool children were reviewed and all contained the following details i.e.

(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) and (i).

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(h) Five of the thirteen records sampled for preschool children did not contain the dates immunisations, if any, which were administered to children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(h) All forms have been returned with immunisations signed and dated.

The service will ensure that all immunisations administered to a child are dated and signed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as outlined by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance.

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;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

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(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.

Compliance Information

The following information in relation to the service was maintained: (1)(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f),(g),(i),(j) and (k).

Non-Compliance Information

(h) The details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis was maintained in the roll book however it did not contain each child's full name. It contained children's first name only which could pose a risk should there be two or more children with the same first name.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(h) This was corrected immediately with both first and second names of the children enrolled in the service written on the roll book.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as outlined by the registered provider address the non-compliance under regulation 16.

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

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Compliance Information

(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS:

The children brought their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included: sandwiches, yogurts, a selection of fruit and drinks of water. All snacks were stored in a fridge in the playroom until they were required by children.

Children sat at low tables and had their lunch in an environment that promoted social interaction with their peers and the adults and was unhurried. Drinking water was available and accessible throughout the session if required by children.

Children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. Staff were observed to clean the tables before snacks were eaten.

The group were allowed to move freely indoors from one activity to the next for specific periods of time. A designated rest/quiet area was available in the room should a child need to rest and have some quiet time and children were observed to use the rest area throughout the session.

There was a plentiful supply of play props available to support imaginative and creative play in the defined interest areas in the kitchen/home corner, construction area, dress up area, rest area, art/craft area and jigsaw section.

Mark making and fine motor skills were supported where children were observed colouring pictures. Staff moved between tables to work with individual children on a one-to-one basis. Children were observed to make choices in relation to play activities and had their choices respected.

Staff were observed to sit at the tables at the child's eye level and supported them to complete activities they had chosen.

The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. The staff modelled positive behaviour for the children and they were praised for their good behaviour. Interactions with the children were positive and caring.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The room was equipped with open shelving units where children could access play equipment and materials independently. Each of the areas were well resourced with toys and accessories including sensory and natural materials. Children were observed to choose play materials, complete an activity independently and replace the equipment to its designated place on the shelving.

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Good supplies of books were available which helped support language development and numeracy. Children were observed colouring pictures and drawing which supported mark making activities. The curriculum theme involved parents such as farmers and truck drivers who visited the service to talk about their occupations. Facilities were available for outdoor play. Children were observed to play outdoors during the inspection and were supervised by two staff at this time. There was sand and water play available, seating for both adults and children, ride on bikes, hoola hoops and a tent. Play props were available to support messy play. Additional play equipment was available in a storage area outside and the group also had use of an adjoining field to go for walks.

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) On the day of the inspection there was one member of staff who held current certification in first aid responder for children.
- (2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid box was available at all times if required by 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 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.*

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place on 02/04/2026.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in May 2025 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises. The wired smoke alarm was serviced in September 2025.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was not displayed in the playroom.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (40) The fire procedure is displayed on the wall for all children and adults to see.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as outlined by the registered provider address the non-compliance under regulation 26.

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 to cover the number of children in attendance.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required.

Non-Compliance Information

The following areas were not maintained and posed a risk to the children

Toilets:

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1. Mould and black staining was evident at the juncture between the wall and ceiling in one of the childrens toilets. Mould growth compromises indoor air quality and can trigger respiratory issues for children.
2. The paint on the walls in both toilets was stained under the hand towel dispenser and the yellow paint on the walls outside both toilets was stained. This posed a risk of cross-contamination and compromises infection control protocols by making cleaning of the areas difficult.
3. There was an odour emanating from the toilet used by the preschool children which demonstrated that the toilet had not been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Sanitary areas are high-risk environments for the spread of pathogens such as bacteria and viruses. The windows were also closed which resulted in limited fresh air circulating in this area.
4. There was a hole in the plaster of the wall behind the door in the second toilet used by the preschool children which posed a risk to the children.
5. The step up used by the children to access the wash hand basin was observed to be stained.

Areas not maintained:

6. Two floor mats at the entrance to the service and outside the toilets were stained and dusty. It is acknowledged that one of the floor mats was removed on the day to be cleaned.
7. At the entrance door there was an accumulation of dust gathered on the steel surround of the door.
8. There was an accumulation of dust and rubbish behind the adult couch in the room.
9. It is acknowledged cleaning checklists had been signed for the cleaning of the toilets however on the day of the inspection this did not appear to been actioned.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The school has been notified of some of the cleaning issues that came up. The caretaker has washed and cleaned the bathroom walls. All mould present has been removed.
2. The painting in both the bathrooms and outer yellow walls has been completed by the school caretaker
3. The odour that was present in the bathrooms has been monitored and the toilet has been disinfected regularly.
4. The chipped plaster that was present has since been filled in and the spring in the floor that caused this chip has been fixed and is working perfectly.
5. The children's step up step has been cleaned thoroughly.
- 6-9. The accumulated dust by the front door has been cleaned and removed and checked more regularly.

More thorough cleaning observations will be done to prevent anything cleaning issues in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

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Summary Comment

The actions as outlined by the registered provider address the non-compliance under regulation 26.