

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2024WX002		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Lámh agus Croí		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Mountfin, Castledockrell, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford		
<b>Eircode:</b>			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Leanne Kehoe		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	27/11/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	5	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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		

### Description of service

Lámh agus Croí Castledockrell operates a sessional service for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age for 38 weeks per year. The service is open from 9.00am to 12.00pm Monday to Friday and can accommodate up to 22 children. The premises is in the local hall in the rural village of Castledockrell. The premises consists of an entrance hall, a large playroom, a kitchen and toilets. The building has its own carpark to the front and an enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the building.

### Staffing

The service currently operates generally as a single-handed provider, there was a second staff member present on the day of inspection. The registered provider and a second named adult are available nearby to assist in the event of an emergency. The staff working directly with the children in the service hold qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education at levels 5 and above.

### 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 announced 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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11 (1)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 19 (a) Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,

Regulation 25 First aid, and

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 registered provider, 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)(b)

There was a designated person in charge on the premises and a second named adult to deputise as required.

(2)(a)(b)

Validated references were kept on the individual's file for all staff.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for staff working in the service.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file for staff that had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.

(4)

Certificate of qualifications for staff who work directly with the preschool children were available on file.

### 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)(2)

Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with children ensuring that the correct adult to child ratios were maintained at all times. During the morning there were five children being directly cared for by two staff.

### 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)

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection.

The children and staff were observed sitting together and chatting during their morning snack. Snack time was unrushed and relaxed, and the children tidied away their lunches as they finished. The children were currently interested in the moon and were busy making moons from playdough.

They had enjoyed painting a cardboard box to make a car to drive to the moon earlier in the week. The daily routine was calm and relaxed, with the children transitioning between activities seamlessly.

The room was well resourced with open shelves, a home corner/kitchen, nature table, Montessori materials, books and seating/rest area. Artwork, birthday walls and family photos were display. There were child sized tables and chairs suitable for tabletop activities and snack time. Children enjoyed imaginative free play within the room and were offered choices.

Simple rules were reinforced with gentle and positive language. For example, a child who was running in the room was asked “do you remember what can happen if we run inside?” The outside play area consisted of an enclosed yard to the rear of the premises. It had a small sandpit, ride on toys, digging areas, and a mud kitchen. Children often went for short walks within the village, including to the local shop on a Friday to purchase a small treat.

### 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 entrance to the premises was secured to ensure children could not exit unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter unannounced. The kitchen was secured to restrict access.

##### Infection Control:

There was warm water, liquid hand soap and hand towels for hygiene handwashing. The playroom was clean and well maintained.

##### Fire Safety:

Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills took place.

## 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)  
There were staff trained in FAR and first aid for children available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)  
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An in-date insurance certificate was available for inspection to demonstrate that valid insurance was in place.