

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2025KY002
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Pobal Leanaí t/a Club Spraoí
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Listellick South, Listellick North, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 AE92
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Timothy Crean
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	12/01/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	9
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy
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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>	N/A
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### Description of service

Pobal Leanaí t/a Club Spraioi is an early years service is registered to provide full day care for children between the age of 0 and 6 years. The service is operating between the hours of 7.45 am and 6 pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The service provides school age care on site in an allocated building separate from the early years service. The service operates from a refurbished building, formerly a national school. There are two care rooms in operation namely the creche and the pre-school. The children's sanitary accommodation and nappy changing facilities are located within each care room. There is a designated sleep room located between the two care rooms. There is a fully equipped kitchen adjacent to the creche. The service has a designated enclosed outdoor play area located to the side of the building behind the un-occupied section of the former National school and within the spacious unused former school yard for the children attending the service.

### Staffing

Currently there are 8 adults attached to the service. This includes the registered provider, the regional operations manager and two students on a work placement in the setting. The registered provider does not work with the children in the service.

### 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 inspections 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 regional operations manager, 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 registered provider had a designated person in charge in place and a named staff member to deputise as required.
- (b) When the announced inspection commenced, the operations manager for the service was on duty to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the 8 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) Of the 16 references required, there were 12 references from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the 16 references required, there were 4 references from a source other than a previous employer with records of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 8 adults.
- (d) There was Police vetting on file for 1 adult who required it having resided outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for greater than six consecutive months.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with copies of the relevant qualifications 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There was an adequate number of staff working with the children at all times on the day of the inspection.

(2) There were 2 adults caring for 6 children in the Wobbler room.

There was 1 child under the age of 1 year and the remaining 5 children were aged between 1 and 2 years, all attending the service on a full day care basis. In addition, there was 1 student on a work placement who was not counted in the adult child ratios.

There were 2 adults caring for 6 children in the pre-school room aged between 2 and 4 years, 2 children attending on a sessional basis and 4 children attending on a part-time and full day care basis. In addition, there was 1 student on a work placement who was not counted in the adult child ratios.

The minimum number of adults was maintained on the day of the inspection.

(8) (a) The registered provider did ensure that a minimum of 2 adults are on the premises.

### 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 parents/guardians of the children attending the pre-school room provided the food for the morning snack and the service provide the food for the morning snack in the wobbler room.
- The service provides the food for the main meals served for the children attending both care rooms.
- The main meal is provided by an outside catering company and is heated in the kitchen.
- The food observed on inspection included rice cakes, crackers, a selection of fruit and the main meal consisted of chicken, gravy, vegetables and mashed potatoes.
- There was a staff member allocated to heat and plate the main meal and prepare the food served for snack times in the kitchen as evidenced on inspection.
- The staff informed the inspector that additional food portions for the main meal is available should the children require more as evidenced during the mealtime.
- The children's labelled drinks bottles were available throughout the session in both rooms; the inspector observed the staff encouraging drinks in between the mealtimes and assisting the smaller children to take their drinks during the inspection.
- Drinking water was available in both rooms, at the sink in the pre-school room and from the kitchen adjacent to the wobbler room.
- There was a supply of milk stored in the fridge in the wobbler that is offered to children at mealtimes as informed by the staff. The inspector observed milk was served at the main meal in the creche.
- The children attending the pre-school who remained in the service on a part-time and full day care basis, joined the children in the wobbler room for the main meal and remained there for the remainder of the day.
- There was an adequate number of feeding chairs provided for the younger children who required them and small low level timber seats at the low-level table for the older children.

- The mealtimes observed were un-hurried, the children had plenty of time to eat their food.
- The staff remained with the children at the mealtime observed, assisted feeding the children that required feeding and supported and encouraged the children who were able to feed themselves.
- The inspector observed children's individual eating requirements were met as observed with a child eating food for snack time after the other children had eaten.
- The children who were independently using the toilet had unrestricted access to the toilets in the care rooms. The inspector observed the staff were on hand to supervise the children.
- Nappy changing was carried out as was required during the day in the allocated nappy changing facilities.
- The inspector observed the children enjoyed free movement in the spacious care rooms during the inspection.
- The staff encouraged the children to interact and to engage with a wide range of materials, activities and equipment in the care rooms based on the children's own choices, interests and their age and stage of development.
- The materials and equipment in the care rooms were arranged so they were readily visible and accessible to promote independent free access by the children at all times.
- The staff facilitated opportunities for individual, small and large group activities and play as evidenced for example in the pre-school room with dress- up, building blocks and dancing to music and in the wobbler room building blocks and reading a book in the rest area.

### Supporting Relationships:

- The staff were observed to be kind and caring and attentive to the children's individual needs as evidenced for example with a child attending the wobbler room who was new to the service and settling in.
- The staff were observed sitting on the soft matting with the children, playing with them, sitting the children on their laps providing guidance, comfort and re-assurance.
- The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their individual level of independence. This was evidenced for example when children washed their hands after the morning snack in the pre-school room.
- The parents are provided with an electronic record of the child's time spent in the service that included for example the food eaten, nappy changing and sleep.
- Siblings were facilitated to be together during the session as evidenced when all children were cared for in the afternoon in the wobbler room.

### Physical & Material Environment:

- The care rooms were bright, comfortable and aired by means of the openable windows.
- The walls were decorated with for example the children's family photographs, children's artwork and educational posters.
- The outdoor play area provided was spacious, it was adequately enclosed and secured with fencing and a gate
- Rest areas were provided in each of the care rooms, consisting of low-level seating, cushions, vinyl matting and large rugs on the floor.
- There was a designated sleep room provided with 7 cots, 6 of which were in use, labelled and individual to each child. There were 16 low level beds that are used as required in the care rooms. A supply of clean linen for cots and for the beds was provided.

### 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 entry/exit main doors to the premise serving the care rooms were secured with a low-level and high-level internal turn lock to prevent authorised entry and to prevent children exiting the building unsupervised.
- The emergency exits observed were unobstructed.
- The cleaning agents observed on inspection were stored on high level shelving and high-level cupboards out of the reach of the children.
- The child gate in place on the kitchen door was secured. A supply of thermostatically controlled warm water was provided at all the wash hand basins not exceeding the required 43 degrees Celsius.
- The first aid boxes in each of the 2 care rooms were stored on high level secure wall hooks out of the reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

- There was a supply of liquid hand soap, disposable paper hand towels and pedal lidded bins at each of the sinks in the service.
- The nappy changing units, the vinyl nappy changing mats and the surrounds were observed to be clean and dry.

- The tables were cleaned down before and after the mealtimes observed.
- The perishable food items were stored in the fridges in each of the care rooms.
- There was a clean supply of bibs used at mealtimes for the younger children in the wobbler room.
- The inspector was informed the supply of freshly laundered small face towels supplied in both care rooms were individual to each child, used on a once off basis to clean children's faces after mealtimes. This was evidenced after the morning snack in the pre-school room.
- There was an allocated box in use in the wobbler room for mouthed toys as evidenced during the inspection when a child that had a toy in its mouth was placed by the staff member in the allocated box. The toys are washed and sterilized prior to making them available again to children.
- The linen in use was observed to be clean and dry and a clean supply stored in sealed plastic boxes.
- The children's individual toiletries were clearly labelled and stored in clean individual containers.

### Administration of Medication:

- The clearly labelled medications seen on inspection were stored in the allocated medication boxes stored on high level shelving in each of the care rooms.
- The staff stated when asked that no child was in receipt of medication on the day of the inspection.

### Safe Sleep:

- The cots in the sleep room were used for children to sleep on the day of the inspection.
- The staff furnished the inspector with the digital record maintained of the 10-minute physical checks conducted on sleeping children. The staff informed the physical checks included checking the child's position, breathing and colour as well as checking the child's mouth as was evidenced in the digital records maintained.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. There were 5 feeding chairs stored in the wobbler room. The chairs were accessible to the children where they could pull them over posing a risk of injury.
2. Within the sanitary accommodation in the pre-school room there were children's labelled barrier creams and wipes accessible in an unsecured cupboard under the built in changing unit posing a risk of injury to children.
3. In the sanitary accommodation serving the pre-school room, one toilet did not have a toilet seat and the seat on the second toilet was not secured posing a risk of injury to children.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. All the feeding chairs have been made inaccessible to the children. Plastic room dividers have been placed securely around the highchairs to prevent children accessing, pulling or tipping them over. The staff were immediately informed of the hazard and to ensure the highchairs remain secured and supervised at all times. A review of equipment storage and the room layout has been completed to ensure all large or potentially hazardous equipment is stored safely and out of children's reach when not in use. The risk assessments will be updated to ensure safe storage for the highchairs. Ongoing monitoring will be carried out by room Leaders and management to ensure compliance, and this will be reinforced during staff meetings and safety checks.
2. All the children's barrier creams and wipes were immediately secured and are no longer accessible to children. A robust magnetic safety lock has been fitted to the cupboard under the built-in changing unit in the pre-school sanitary accommodation to prevent unauthorised access, eliminate the risk of injury and ensure durability. A review of all changing units and sanitary accommodation storage has been completed to ensure appropriate locking systems are in place. This will be monitored through regular room safety checks and any future issues with equipment or fittings will be addressed promptly.
3. The toilet seats in both toilet cubicles have been replaced.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

1. A photograph demonstrating the highchairs stored behind plastic dividers in the care room.
2. Proof of purchase for the magnetic lock.
3. Proof of purchase for 2 toilet seats.

### Summary Comment

The documentation received was examined. The regulation is deemed compliant.

### 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 in-date certifications for First Aid Responder (FAR) training were furnished to the inspector to evidence that 4 staff members had completed the (FAR) training available at all times when the service was open.

(2)(a) There were suitably equipped first aid boxes provided for the children in the service, the boxes were stored on high level wall mounted hooks in each of the 2 care rooms.

(b) The suitably equipped first aid boxes were available to the children in the service at all times.

### 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,*

*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

#### Compliance Information

(a) The premises appeared visually to be sound and stable.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(c) The air temperature of the children's sanitary accommodation serving the wobbler room and the sanitary accommodation serving the pre-school room was recorded below the required temperature of 18 degrees Celsius. The air temperature recorded were between the range of 13.3 degrees Celsius and 16 degrees.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(c) Temperature-controlled heating units have been installed in all sanitary areas across the premises to ensure a consistent and safe ambient temperature for the children. The heating was immediately activated, and the

temperature levels were rechecked to confirm compliance. All the sanitary accommodation will be included in daily environmental checks, the temperatures will be recorded and any fluctuations will be addressed promptly. Management will continue to review the effectiveness of the temperature-controlled heating systems, particularly during colder periods, to ensure children's comfort, health and welfare at all times.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

Two photographs of 2 high level wall mounted heaters and handheld controllers.

**Summary Comment**

Documentation received was examined. The requirement for this regulation has been met.