

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2025OY003

**Name of Service:** Kilcormac Community Childcare

**Address of Service:** St Joseph's Community Centre, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly

**Eircode:** R42 X894

**Name of Registered Provider:** Deirdre Staunton

**Service type:** Full Day

**Date of Inspection:** 26/11/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	6	PM	6
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**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Early Years Inspectorate,  
SAP Office, St Loman's Campus,  
Springfield,  
Mullingar,  
Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.

**Inspection undertaken by:** T. Duignan

**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).

**Conditions if applicable** Not applicable.

### Description of service

Kilcormac Community Childcare provides full day care for children aged 0 to 3 years of age in the village of Kilcormac, County Offaly. It operates Monday to Friday from 8:00am – 18:00 hours. The service is located in a single storey community premises. A sleep room, a wobbler room, a toddler room, a breakout room, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation are provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the premises.

The service has recently opened and there is one care room in use.

Onsite parking and set down facilities are available.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. Six adults including a caretaker and one student on community employment work placement are employed.

Four adults were working directly with the children in the service on the day of the inspection. Three adults have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education as per the National Framework of Qualifications and one adult is employed on a community employment work placement.

### 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 and health, welfare and development of child. 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 registered provider, 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

*(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

The files of six employees and one student employed on community employment placement was assessed.

(2)

(a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of seven adults employed whose staff files were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults whose records were reviewed.

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Four adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting was not available for one adult who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4) One adult employed and working directly with the children attending the service did not have a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) Police vetting has been applied for.

(4) The qualification certificate is on file.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(d) Evidence of application – reference identifier.

(4) Qualification certificate.

#### Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is not met for regulation 9(2)(d) as the police vetting has not been submitted to the inspectorate to date and remains outstanding.

### 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.*

*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 were six children attending the service and they were supervised directly by four adults.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

(8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for 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

(1)(a)

##### Basic needs of children:

The service promoted a healthy eating policy. Hot meals were provided by an external caterer co located in the building. The snacks were freshly prepared by the staff and included fruit, yogurt and water. Water was offered regularly to the children, and milk was served at main meals. The staff members assisted the children at mealtimes and ensured mealtimes were sociable and relaxed.

Nappy changing was completed regularly and promptly when required. It was handled in a sensitive and positive manner.

The individual sleep needs of the children were met, and they were provided with as much time as they needed to sleep.

The sleep room had ten cots with individual bed linen available for any child under 2 years and low-level beds are available for any children over the age of two who requires rest or sleep. Soft furnishings provide suitable and adequate rest facilities within the pre-school rooms.

The children enjoyed outdoor play and the staff members ensured that the children were appropriately dressed.

The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours. Children were spoken to in a kind and respectful manner. Their first names were used; appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions.

##### Supporting relationships around children:

Adults were observed being respectful, gentle and kind towards the children in their care.

There is an open-door policy for parents. Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times.

Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary, email and telephone contact are also used as alternative methods of communication.

##### Physical and material environment:

There were toys and equipment available for arts and crafts, home corners, interest areas, sensory and tabletop activities.

Two highchairs were available for the babies. Low level chairs and tables were available to the children for meals and tabletop activities.

The outdoor area is attached to the rear of the service which can be accessed directly via a door from the two pre-school rooms and the sleep room. A high-level metal fence secures the perimeter of the designated outdoor play area. A variety of stationary play equipment and outdoor toys are available including a playhouse, slides, push along and ride on trikes.

### **Programme of activities:**

On the day of the inspection, the children were facilitated to make their own choice in selecting play equipment and activities that they wished to engage with. The staff members supported the children with their activities and did not interfere in their play. The routine was child led and responsive to the children's interests.

The children enjoyed outdoor play on the morning of the inspection.