

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2026CC001
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Name of Service:	Roisin's Childcare Limited
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Address of Service:	Campion Avenue, Abbey Fort, Kinsale, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P17 Y968
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Name of Registered Provider:	Fiona O'Donovan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM	28
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Department, Child & Family Agency, Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co Cork P81 PD78
Inspection undertaken by:	M. O Reilly
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

Roisin's Childcare Limited is a purpose-built childcare service that first opened in February 2026. The service is located in a residential area on the outskirts of Kinsale town, Co Cork. The service is registered to offer sessional, and full day care to children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The service also offers the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service operates from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

The premise is a purpose built detached two storey building in a residential estate located in Kinsale, Co Cork. There are four playrooms each with adjoining sanitary facilities. Since opening, three of the four playrooms are in operation. Four sleep rooms are available, along with a kitchen, a storeroom, a utility room, office, staff rooms and an adequate number of staff sanitary facilities. There is a secured outdoor play area beside the premise. There is a safe set down area for children and parents for arrival and departure from the service.

Staffing

There are 9 adults attached to the service including the registered provider who is service based. Each of the adults that work directly with the children has a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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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.

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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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider and the named person in charge were present for the inspection.
 - (b) The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy were on duty at all times, during the hours of operation.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place in the service.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to 9 adults attached to the service were the subject of the inspection.
- (a) Of the required 18 references, 14 references were from previous employers with records of validation on file.
 - (b) Of the 18 required references, 4 were from sources other than previous employers, with records of validation on file.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of the 9 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting records, with certified translations where required, were available on file for 4 of the adults, who had lived outside the State for a period of six consecutive months or longer, as adults.

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(4)

There was evidence that the 9 staff members had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework for Qualifications, or a qualification deemed 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.

(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) (a) 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)

On day of inspection, an adequate number of adults were observed to work directly with the children in attendance.

(2) The required adult to child ratios were adhered to across the three playrooms in operation.

During the morning there were 48 children, aged 1 to 5 years in attendance, with 8 adults available to these children.

In the afternoon of the day of inspection, 8 adults, were working directly with the 28 children present, who were aged 1 to 5 years.

In addition, the person in charge was observed to provide staff cover as needed at staff lunch time breaks. The registered provider was available to facilitate the inspection process.

(8)

(a) The service operated with at least two adults present at all times. This was observed on the day of inspection and was evidenced through examination of the staff roster.

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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.*

Compliance Information

(1) (a) to (i)

A sample of 12 children's registration forms were reviewed, and all were found to contain all of the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (1) (a) to (i) inclusive.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

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Compliance Information

The following records in writing were reviewed on inspection:

- (h) The attendance of each child on a daily basis was recoded that indicated the arrival and departure time to the service each day.
- (i) A weekly staff roster was maintained that indicated the names of the staff in attendance, the arrival and departure times each day.
- (k) A sample of accident and incident reports for children who attended the service were reviewed and contained all relevant information in relation to the accident or incident that had occurred since the service opened in February 2026. The Accident and Incident record was signed by staff and parent/guardian. The parent was advised to take a photograph of the Accident and Incident record on collection of their child, post incident.

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 children appeared to enjoy the hot meal provided at lunch time by a registered catering food company. The staff reheated and served the food. Chicken, carrot, sweetcorn and potatoes were eaten by the children at dinner time. Children had a variety of food served for breakfast by the service and the parents provided the food and drink for mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack times. The food provided was observed to be healthy and nutritious at meal and snack times. Refrigerators were available in each care room of the service for storing perishable foods provided by parents.
- Ages and stages appropriate cutlery and crockery were used with the children in the younger rooms having access to bowls and spoons while the older children had access to plates and cutlery.
- The children's drinking water bottles were readily available throughout the day in the playrooms and at mealtimes.

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- Appropriate seating was used in the form of low-level tables and chairs.
- The adults interacted with the children in a warm and caring manner. For example, calm tones of voice were used, and children were patiently guided during activities and routine tasks.
- Staff were heard by the inspector praising and encouraging children during play in the Yellow room where children's colouring, completed puzzles and arts and crafts. Staff were noted by the inspector to sit at the children's level. Staff were heard by the inspector praising and encouraging children during physical outdoor play from the Orange and Red rooms.
- Outdoor games and activities were promoted, with each room scheduled to access the outdoor area at least twice a day. The inspector observed children playing outdoors in climbing frames, slides and ride on and push toys. The Orange and Yellow rooms had access to their own outdoor area containing age-appropriate equipment.
- It was observed that children who required nappy changing were attended to at regular intervals and according to their individual needs. For the older children, the location of the sanitary facilities, which adjoined each of the care rooms, enabled them to access and utilise these facilities in an independent manner.
- The younger children were observed to sleep at various intervals and older children were facilitated with a scheduled rest period. Cosy areas in the care rooms were observed to be used for rest and reading as seen on day of inspection

Supporting relationships:

- During mealtimes, the adults remained with the children and assisted as required. The children were given adequate time to enjoy their food, and the staff were observed chatting with the children during mealtime.
- Younger children had the opportunity to feed themselves appropriate to their ages and stages of development.
- The layout of the care rooms supported the children to move freely within their environments and to actively engage in their chosen tasks.
- Children dressed appropriately outdoors, wearing coats and hats. Independence was encouraged with children observed putting on and taking off their coats and hats.
- Staff members were observed to be warm and caring in their interactions with the children. For example, staff were observed comforting children who were upset by speaking to them in a gentle tone while offering reassurance.

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- Parents and guardians were welcome to enter the premises when drop and collect children from the care room. It was noted that this opportunity was used for informal discussion between staff members and parents and guardians.
- The person in charge informed the inspector that the service used a daily book between parents and children, to share information with parents regarding their children's activities of daily living that included food and drink, sleep time, play activities, toilet and nappy changing.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The playrooms were spacious and well maintained. A selection of the children's artwork, along with their birthdays and family photographs were prominently displayed.
- Suitably sized tables and chairs were available to the children. This supported mealtime routines and enabled the children to carry out tabletop activities.
- Shelving used to display play materials was positioned at a low height, which supported ease of access by children.
- The care rooms had a range of age and stage appropriate play resources available to children. For example:
 - furnished home areas, handheld vehicles, dolls and accessories supported imaginary play.
 - a variety of building blocks and bricks promoted construction play.
 - the development of fine motor skills was encouraged through the availability of play resources such as connectable shapes, threading materials, and jigsaws.
 - books supported language development. Soft seating areas, with books and soft toys, were included within the care rooms, for any child who may wish to opt out of scheduled activities or take some time to relax.
 - Art and craft materials, paper, age-appropriate crayons and pencils and finger paints.
- The outdoor play spaces provided opportunities for the children to engage in a variety of active play and exploration, through the availability of equipment such as climbing frame, balance apparatus, slides, ride on toys encouraging the children to master gross motor skill play while playing outdoors.

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:

- Entrance and exit to and from the premises for staff, parents and guardians was via a key code system which was located alongside the main entrance door, with a bell for visitors. On the interior of this door, the door release button minimised the risk of a child exiting the service unsupervised. These safety mechanisms ensured that the risk of unauthorised access and the risk of a child exiting the premises while unsupervised were minimised.
- The outdoor play areas were secured by high walls and locked gates.
- Visibility stickers were placed on glass panel doors at the child's height which reduced the risk of sustaining a collision injury.
- The first aid boxes were stored out of reach of the children.
- There was no cables or trailing flexes accessible to children on the day of inspection.
- The toys seen in use on the day of inspection were maintained in good condition.
- Restrictive opening devices were in place on the low-level cupboards in the playrooms.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children on the day of inspection.
- Restrictive opening devices were in place on all the openable windows in the Red room located on the first floor.

Infection Control:

- The children's nappies, wipes and barrier creams were maintained in clearly labelled storage areas.
- At the children's wash hand basins, there was a supply of warm running water, liquid soap, paper towels and lidded foot pedal operated bins. These facilities supported the practice of effective handwashing. It was noted that handwashing routines took place after the children had used the toilet, after outdoor play and before snack times.
- Large refrigerators were located in the kitchen to store the daily hot lunch meals provided by the catering company. Refrigerators were available in each of the three playrooms in operation for storing perishable foods provided by parents.
- Tables were sanitised before mealtimes.

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- Suitable storage was provided for the children's bags, outdoor clothing and footwear.
- There are three nappy changing stations and two children's toilet facilities on the ground floor There are 4 children's toilet facilities on the first floor. There are three adult toilet facilities on the ground floor and one adult toilet facility on the first floor. There were an adequate number of adult and children's toilet and nappy changing facilities for the number of children present on day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff members recorded children's breathing, colour and position while they slept. The inspector was advised that these checks were undertaken at ten-minute intervals, and this was confirmed through a review of recent sleep logs and the sleep log on day of inspection.
- A staff member was observed in place in each of the four separate sleep rooms monitoring the sleeping children.
- The Orange Room had two separate sleep rooms beside the playroom which were furnished with 11 standard cots with correct fitting mattresses. Each of the mattresses was fitted with a waterproof mattress cover. There were an adequate number of standard cots for children under two that required a sleep on day of inspection.
- The parents provided the bed linen for the children. The individual accompanying bed linen was sent home weekly for laundry. The service provided spare bed linen when required.
- The older pre-school child's needs were met when stackable beds were set up in two separate designated sleep rooms for the children over two that required a sleep located beside the Orange playroom. There were a sufficient number of stacking beds available for the 11 children over two years who had a sleep on day of inspection.
- It was observed when children were asleep there was adequate space provided between the cots and stacking beds in the designated separate sleep rooms.

Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection, fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.
- Firefighting equipment was securely wall mounted.
- Fire exit and fire assembly signage were clearly visible.

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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 registered provider ensured that there were staff available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. The FAR certification on file indicated that three staff members held current up to date training and the three staff members were present on day of inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid boxes were stored out of children's reach in the service. The first aid boxes were stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each of the care rooms in operation.

(b) The fully equipped first aid boxes were available at all times to adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 23 April 2026.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment and the emergency fire alarm system were last tested and serviced in January 2026.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

- The registered provider ensured the service was adequately insured, with insurance for a maximum of 44 children until 27/03/2027. The records detailed the category of service covered which was full day care, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.