

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE073
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Name of Service:	Liscannor Childcare
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Address of Service:	Castle Street, Liscannor, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 R896
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kieran Considine
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	30/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	A. McCarthy
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

Liscannor Childcare Centre was established in 1996, as a community-based service adjacent to Liscannor national school. The service is located in a purpose-built, single storey building. A play-based programme of care is provided on a full day, part time and a sessional basis for children ranging in age from two to six years. A school aged childcare service is provided in the afternoons and during school holidays. The service operates Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 17:30.

Staffing

On the 30 April 2026 five adults worked directly with the children during the inspection. The manager provided an administrative role and did not work directly with the children. The registered provider is part of the board of management and does not work directly with the children.

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

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

Regulation 11-Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

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

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25-First aid (1)(a)(a)(b)

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

Regulation 28- Insurance

Regulation 29-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 manager, 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)

The manager was the person in charge, and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The manager and the deputy were available during the inspection.

(2)

Seven files were available in respect of the registered provider and the six adults employed by the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

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Ten written and validated references from past employers in respect of the adults working in the service were available.

(b)

Four written and validated references from a source other than a past employer in respect of adults working in the service were available.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for seven adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes for two adults as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d)

International police vetting with evidence of translation was available in respect of one adult working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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,

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Compliance Information

- (1)
During the inspection, an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (2)
On the 30 April 2026, the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Three adults cared for the eighteen pre-school children attending in the morning and four adults cared for the fifteen pre-school children attending in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available in the service at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a)
Supporting Relationships Around Children:
- The adults in the care room interacted with the children in a kind manner. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions with the children. The adults responded promptly to the children's cues for assistance, conversed at their level and listened attentively during conversations. The adults demonstrated an understanding of the children's individual preferences and capabilities. The adults notified the children in advance of any change in the programme of activities. The children transitioned from the indoor to the outdoor environment throughout the day. The children initiated open ended child-led play-based activities.
- The children were encouraged to be independent while caring for their personal belongings, using the toilet, participation in tasks and tidy up time. The children engaged in open ended creative, constructive, pretend and

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sensory play. Speech sounds and language development was promoted by the adults through repetition, reading books and discussion. The children's creative work was available in individual folders. The adults discuss the children's day and observations with the parent/guardians during drop off and collection times at the entrance to the service. An informal communication approach was observed during interactions with parent/guardians.

Physical and Material Environment:

The indoor environment was adequately resourced, spacious and bright. The play-based programme of care was provided in one open plan room. An additional space accommodated a set of sliding doors leading to a play area, featuring a play kitchen and shop. This area was not accessed by the children during the inspection. The room was laid out with designated interest areas. A central wooden tower accommodated a large bright enclosed carpeted library which served as a cosy reading area. Low level seating and tables were provided for the children for play and feeding time. The play materials and equipment were freely available and accessible to the children in containers on low level shelving. The shelving units accessed by the children and included manipulative, pretend, sensory and constructive play materials and equipment. A large couch was used by the children and adults for story time and to rest and relax throughout the inspection. Sliding doors leading from the care room provided easy access to a partly covered outdoor play area.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The service did not provide a sufficient quantity of play materials and equipment in the outdoor play area for the number, age range and developmental level of the children and required further development. This area is accessed each afternoon by the pre-school and school aged children.

The Corrective and preventive action response submitted by the service following the last inspection of 19 September 2024 did not adequately address the non-compliance and did not prevent the non-compliance from reoccurring.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The outdoor equipment/toys were purchased. All toys and equipment will be inspected regularly and replace when needed.

The toys /equipment will be replaced when required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic Evidence of water tables, water station, sand tables and balance blocks.

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Summary Comment

Based on the registered providers corrective and preventive actions and supporting evidence the area of non-compliance under Regulation 19 (1)(a) has been resolved. The implemented actions taken will be reviewed on next inspection.

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:

- A key coded, and bell operated system with a high-level switch was in place at the entrance door to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor play areas were secured with fencing and gates to protect the children within.
- Protective coverings were in place on the metal beams in the outdoor area.
- A book was available at the entrance detailing visitors to the service that are authorised by the manager.
- The children's arrival and departure times were recorded on the service's application system.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins. Photographic illustrations of hand hygiene techniques were displayed over the wash hand basins to prompt children to wash their hands.
- Handwashing was encouraged and supervised by the adults. The children's hands were washed at regular intervals which included after using the toilet and before mealtime.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service.
- Written records of completed monthly fire drills were available.
- A fire assembly point and fire exit signage were readily identified by the adults working in the service.

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Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for seven adults employed by the service. However, two vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice. It is acknowledged on the 30 April 2026 the registered provider applied for up-to-date garda vetting disclosures in respect of the two adults.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Garda Vetting has been applied for the relevant staff.

All new staff will be vetted and references validated before commencing work and all existing referenced renewed when required.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Copy of Garda Vetting disclosure applications shown in service during the inspection.

Summary Comment

Evidence of an application for the two adult's Garda vetting were reviewed however a copy of the completed Garda vetting disclosures has not been submitted for these adults to the Early Years Inspectorate to date.

The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt.

The non-compliance in relation to Regulation 23 General Safety remains outstanding.

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.

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Compliance Information

- (1)
- Three adults held a record of up to date First Aid Responder training. The staff roster indicated that the three adults were available on the premises at all times.
- (2)(a)
- A suitably equipped first aid box was available and stored in an accessible location in the service.
- (b)
- A first aid box was available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a)
- Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place on the 11 April 2026.
- (b)
- Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place respectively on the 16 October 2025 and 10 November 2025.
- (4)
- Fire action notices were displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for twenty-four pre-school children. The policy is valid until the 27 March 2027.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(e)
The children had access to a sanitary facility adjacent to the care room. The sanitary facility was appropriately equipped with three child sized toilets and three child sized wash hand basins.
The adult toilet accommodated a nappy changing area and was equipped with a partitioned nappy changing mat and unit.