

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DL032		
Name of Service:	Crossroads & Killygordon Community Playgroup Ltd		
Address of Service:	Dromore, Killygordon, Co. Donegal		
Eircode:	F93 RD82		
Name of Registered Provider:	Emer Anderson		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	28/05/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	30	PM 0
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94		
Inspection undertaken by:	N Toner		
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

The service operates a sessional service and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme in the morning from 09:00 am to 12:00 pm and 9.15 am to 12.15 pm and can cater for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is in a purpose-built building located in Dromore, Killygordon in east Donegal. The service has 2 playrooms, kitchen, office and sanitary accommodation. The service has a sheltered outdoor area which has a variety of interest areas for children and a large open plan play area to the rear of the service and children have access to the outdoor play in a secured outdoor play areas. Private parking is provided at the front of the premises.

Staffing

There is a total of 10 adults employed in the service, including the registered provider and person in charge. The registered provider does not work directly with the preschool children in the service. Six of the adults work directly with the preschool children. On the day of inspection Two adults present were on a community employment scheme (C.E).

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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 27 and 28.

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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 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*
- (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.*

(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 service has a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as needed.
- (b) On the day of inspection, the person in charge was always onsite.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in the service, which identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2) The records of 8 adults working in the service had been reviewed in the service on its last inspection on the 15th of October 2025 and found to be compliant. Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge, it was determined that two adults

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had been employed since the previous inspection. The following information was available for two adult's files reviewed:

(b) Four written and validated references were on file for two staff from other sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all ten adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(2)(d) International police vetting was not required for any adults in the service as no adult had resided outside of the state for a period of six consecutive months or more as an adult.

(4) Seven adults had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained, there were 8 adults working in the service with 30 pre-school children in the morning. The breakdown of staffing is as follows:

- Room One – Three staff were providing direct care for 16 children aged between 2 years of age and 4 years of age. Of the three adults working with the children, one adult was working under the Access and Inclusion Model. One adult was also present, working under the Community Employment (C.E) scheme.

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- Room Two - Three staff were providing direct care for 14 children aged between 2 years of age and 4 years of age. Of the three adults working with the children, one adult was working under the Access and Inclusion Model. One adult was also present, working under the Community Employment (C.E) scheme.

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*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

19(1)(a)

Basic Needs

The service had an emphasis on healthy eating and information was available for parents and guardians to view on the entrance to the service. The snacks were prepared with the children in the service. The snacks were supplied by the service and were healthy and nutritious and consisted of sandwiches, crackers, cheese, fresh fruit pieces, yogurts with milk or water available to children when needed. Perishable items were stored in the service fridge. Crockery and plates were offered and used during children's snack times and were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children. Snack time was interactive and children joined for snack at their own pace. All children attending the service were toilet trained and toileted independently or with some assistance or support by adults as required. The children were encouraged to engage with hand hygiene after using the toilet, prior to snack time and after messy play.

Physical & materiel Environment

In both playrooms the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couches in designated cosy area and the service also had a sensory room where children could take time out and relax. Children were observed in circle time, outdoor play, tabletop activities, storytelling and singing. The rooms were well equipped with a wide variety of materials such as arts and crafts, dolls and doll houses, construction corners, a library in each room and a soft seated area. There was multiple toys and sensory toys available to the children which were clean and in working order. The walls of the room were decorated with children's art, photographs of the children engaging in various activities and educational posters.

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There were 2 outdoor play areas to the rear of the premises and a sheltered area which was sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service. Both areas were well equipped with defined interest areas. The play equipment and materials provided in the outdoor area supported a range of physically energetic activities and play experiences. Children in the service were observed engaging in multiple activities simultaneously, demonstrating high levels of independence and choice in a well-resourced environment. In a sheltered corner of the outdoor area, three children engaged in snack time supported by one staff member. Five children participated in arts and crafts to develop their fine motor, sensory, and imaginative skills supported by one staff member. The remaining children freely accessed the large outdoor area. Drinking water was readily available and handwashing facilities were accessible in the corner of the outdoor space. Outdoor engagement was varied and robust: one child participated in sensory water play, two children developed gross motor skills with outdoor construction toys using hard hats, and one staff member supported two children in the garden area digging soil. Additionally, five children utilized the outdoor picnic area for snack time, exercised their choice to eat or play when it suited them. The outdoor space was very well-equipped to support child development, featuring tyres for balancing, a large sandpit, and a dedicated tarmac space with a wide array of ride-on vehicles, including three-wheeled bikes, cars, and tractors. Multiple sheltered areas effectively catered to all weather conditions, and children appeared highly engaged, moving between indoor and outdoor activities with ease.

Supporting relationships

There was a large notice board in the entrance to the service to inform parents of the day to day running of the service and to notify them of any relevant information required. The staff informed the inspector that they use a handover process each morning and afternoon with the parents to relay any relevant information required. Each child had an individual activity book which contained art works, outings and photographs of activities conducted in the service. Staff were compassionate and kind to the children and could be observed to be attentive to each child's needs. Staff encouraged children to be independent but also were observed to work one to one with children at their request. A dedicated family wall was in place in each room containing family photographs and information pertaining to each child.

Programme of Activities

A programme of activities was in place in each room. There was also an annual calendar in place with weekly local events for the service. On the day of inspection, the ambulance staff were at the service. Two ambulances came

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on site, and the children took turns to visit the ambulance and ask questions off the ambulance team. The children appeared to be excited to meet with the local health services.

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 service was secure on the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service.
- The outdoor perimeter was secured with high wooden fencing and locked gates.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the preschool.

Infection Control:

- The service was observed to be clean with up-to-date cleaning schedules in place.
- Warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels were provided for effective hand hygiene.

Fire Safety:

- On the day, evacuation doors remained clear ensuring safe egress from the service in an emergency.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

During the inspection, the required ratio of qualified adults to children was maintained, ensuring that children were under the supervision of qualified staff members. The staff were observed positioning themselves within the rooms to allow effective engagement with the children, offering support when required and attentive supervision. During mealtimes staff sat close by the tables whilst, ensuring help was given to children when required. The outdoor area was designed to ensure that the children could be kept within sight and sound of the staff.

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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

The service had in date adequate insurance for 44 preschool children on a sessional basis which is valid from 28th March 2026 to 27th March 2027.