

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY263
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Name of Service:	Traceys Early Years Playroom Limited
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Address of Service:	Cregmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 CPC2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tracey Hurney
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	15/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan.
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

This full day care service is in a rural area of county Galway between the villages of Claregalway and Lackagh. The service comprises of 3 playrooms which includes playroom 1 and playroom 2 in the main building and to the rear of the service is playroom 3. The service has its own kitchen where the main hot meal is prepared and snacks. The service also has an outdoor area to the rear of the service, which is partially covered for use in wet weather. The service is registered to operate as a full day care, part-time and sessional service and caters for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years, between the hours are 8 am and 6 pm. The sessional service operates between 9 am and 12 pm.

Staffing

A total of six adults are employed in the service which includes four adults working directly with children, a relief staff member and the registered provider. The adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education. The 6 adults who work directly with the children hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to a level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 and safety. 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, 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.*

(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.*

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(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 was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The registered provider was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were on the premises during the operational hours of the service when the pre-school children were present.
- (2)(a)(b)(d) All 6 staff files were reviewed on the 08 October 2025 and was found to be compliant. There was no new staff employed in the service since the last inspection.
- (c) Since the last inspection and a review of the files no staff member required renewal of garda vetting within three years. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
- (4) The six adults who were working directly with children all held 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. Copies of qualifications were on file for the six staff.

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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 adults working with the children on the day of inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to.
- There were 3 adults working directly with 32 children in the morning and 3 adults working with 13 children in the afternoon.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were rostered during the operation of the service.

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;*

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- (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

15(1) (a) to (i)

There was a total of 38 children registered in the service. A sample of 10 children's records were reviewed and were found to have met the requirements of this part of the Regulations.

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

19(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

- The snacks and hot meal were appropriate. The hot meal on the day of inspection was chicken, pasta and 6reschool6.
- Water was readily available in each of the playrooms and was provided during mealtimes.
- Perishable items that were belonging to preschool children were stored in the service fridge.
- Cutlery and plates were offered and used during children's snack times and were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.
- The tables and chairs in use were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the 6reschool children.
- Children attending the service were toilet trained and toileted independently or with some assistance or support by adults as required.
- Handwashing was observed prior to eating, after toileting, after outdoor play and after messy play.

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- In the playrooms the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in a designated cosy area.

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

- A key person system was in place for each child to support their development and to inform curriculum planning. The role of the key person was to liaise with parents and guardians.
- The communication with parents was provided at collection and drop off times, via text messages, via newsletter and by phone calls.
- The staff were observed to be interested in the children, spoke in low tones, listened to them and responded to their requests. The staff interacted in a positive way with the children e.g. they sat at children's level, maintained good eye contact, showed empathy and a good understanding of each child.
- Transition between activities were planned by the adults and allowed children to move from one activity to another in an unhurried manner.
- Staff were observed helping children find solutions, supporting them and talking to children in a variety of ways- discussing, questioning, modelling, commentating, extending a child's activities and initiating games and activities.
- The themes for the week were 'Flowers' and children grew their own sunflowers.
- Children were observed at free play in the special interest areas, tabletop activities, outdoor play, creative art and circle time.

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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 service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid responder for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) The first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped with all contents within expiry dates and were available to the children attending the pre-school service.