

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY286
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Name of Service:	Williamstown Community Playschool
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Address of Service:	The Parish Hall, Ballyroe, Williamstown, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	F45 W211
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Name of Registered Provider:	Noel Tarmey
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly
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 service operates a sessional daycare early years' service for children aged from 2 to 6 years old. The service operates from 09.30 to 12.30, Monday to Friday. This service is in a community building in Williamstown village in Co Galway. This service has one large playroom and a kitchen/staff area. It also has a well-equipped outdoor area which is located to the side of the building.

Staffing

On the day of inspection, there were three adults working with the preschool children. The registered provider does not work in the service on a daily basis.

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 an 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.

On inspection additional non-compliance which posed a safety risk was identified under Regulation 23-General Safety and Fire Safety. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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

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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.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN	14/05/2026	The fire alarm system was not in working condition.
Status Closed	CAPA returned and accepted on the 21/05/26.	

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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.

(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 manager was the designated person in charge on the day of inspection and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the service manager was in charge and facilitated the inspection.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the service manager, it was confirmed that there were five staff employed in the service, which included the registered provider who is supernumerary and does not work in the service on a daily basis. These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) Of the required 10 written and appropriately validated references, 8 of these references were from a previous employer.

(b) Of the required 10 written and appropriately validated references, 2 of these references were from a reputable source other than the previous employer.

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- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all the staff working in the service. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every three years. This non-compliance will be outlined in Regulation 23-General Safety.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as the adults working in the preschool service had not lived for a period longer than six consecutive months outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) All adults working directly with the preschool children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the day, there were 13 pre-school children being cared for by 3 adults.
At 10.15 am on the day of inspection, the following care room was in operation.
- (3) Playroom (ECCE)- there were 3 adults caring for 13 children.

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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

Click or tap here to enter text.

- Children were independent with their toileting needs. However, on occasion children needed a reminder from staff. Children were observed using the sanitary facilities throughout the session and staff were heard giving gentle reminders in relation to hand washing.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunchtime and after using the toilet. The children used the low-level sink that was conveniently adjacent in the playroom. The children used warm water, liquid soap and used paper towels to dry their hands, which were disposed of in a foot pedal operated waste bin. The children were also observed washing their hands after using the outdoor play area prior to going home.
- Snack time was observed to be a social event; the children ate their snacks in the low-level tables and chairs. The staff sat with the children, speaking and interacting in a positive manner with the children.
- Children got the opportunity to move freely around the indoor play area during the period of the inspection.
- The staff were observed to use positive approaches and praise when for speaking to the children. The children listened to a story read to them by a staff member. The children asked questions in relation to the story and the staff member answered all questions with great enthusiasm.

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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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Garda vetting was available for five staff members, but the date was greater than three years for one staff member. This vetting disclosure was not in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting' to renew garda vetting every three years.

Fire Safety:

The fire alarm system was not in working order. The service manager informed the inspector that the fire alarm system was not working. The date of the last service of the fire alarm system was July 2023. It was due to be serviced again in July 2024. There was no record of such a service having taken place available for inspection. The date for the servicing of the firefighting equipment was dated in July 2024. The fire alarm system and the firefighting equipment were not maintained in line with the requirements set out in Fire Safety in Preschool 1999 and may pose a risk to the staff and children attending the service in the event of a fire on the premises.

Action by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in the following in their reply:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

An application for renewal of garda vetting was submitted and awaiting a reply. All garda vetting will be renewed in line with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Fire Safety:

The fire alarm panel has been replaced. The system has been serviced and tested. The fire engineer will service the fire alarm as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the fire alarm service record was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

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Summary Comment

The inspector reviewed the actions and the evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.

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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) Written records of the fire drills undertaken in the service were kept by staff with the last fire drill recorded as having been undertaken on the 11/05/2026.
- (b) A certificate of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was dated in July 2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the playrooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) no person other than-*
 - (i) pre-school child attending the service,*
 - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*
 - (iii) an employee, or*
 - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*
 - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

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Compliance Information

- (1) Each child attending the service was checked in and out by a staff member. A record of each child's attendance detailing the arrival and departure time of each child was maintained daily. This record was available for inspection.
- (3)(a) A register of people entering the premises other than those outlined above in (3) (a) was available for inspection.
- The following information was recorded for each person as outlined above.
- The date
 - The person's name and contact details
 - The reason for entry
- (b) A daily register of visitors to the service was maintained.