

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK153
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Small World
-------------------------	-------------

Address of Service:	21 Hilltop St Patrick's Road Limerick
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	V94 RHY0
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Sharon Collins
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	08/06/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	No.
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

This registered sessional service was established in 2003. It operates a morning session from 09:00hrs – 12:00 hours Monday – Friday for 38 weeks a year. The service offers a play-based curriculum from a domestic dwelling where the children have access to a preschool room, sanitary accommodation area and an outside play area.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service each day and holds a major award in early childhood care and education. The adult has engaged in on-going professional development including first aid training. An adult was available in the house in the event of an emergency.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations;

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

Regulation 11(1) - Staffing levels.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Regulation 15(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f) (g)(h)(i) - Record of pre-school child.

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

Regulation 25(1)(2)(a)(b) - First aid.

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

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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 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*

(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) There was a named person in charge, and a deputy was available to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection the person in charge was present and the emergency contact person was present also in the dwelling.

(2) The files for the registered provider working in the service and the emergency contact person were reviewed.

(a) There were 4 written references submitted from previous employers on file.

(b) Reference from sources other than past employers were not required.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for the registered provider and the emergency contact person. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as the registered provider had not resided outside of the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The registered provider had an appropriate childcare qualification.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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.

Compliance Information

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(2) On the day of the inspection the registered provider was working with and supervising 4 preschool children present in the session.

The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained and an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

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 sample of four records for preschool children were reviewed and all contained the following details i.e. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) and (i).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) BASIC NEEDS:

Children's well-being, development and learning was supported throughout the session.

The children brought their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included: sandwiches, a selection of fruit and drinks of water. Children sat together around the table and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food.

Children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. Children toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it.

They enjoyed freedom of movement within the pre-school room where there was a plentiful supply of play props available to support sensorial play. They were encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. Children were observed to lead their own play and choose different play activities. Learning journals/scrap books for each child with photographic evidence of activities completed were available for parent's information. Children were observed playing outdoors in the secure outdoor play facilities which was roofed and allowed children spend more time outdoors.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

A play area at the rear of the facility was available where children had access to messy play activities. The door leading to the outside play area was open therefore children had the choice of playing outdoors or inside. The room was equipped with open shelving units where children could access play equipment and materials independently. Play spaces, such as the library area, home corner, construction area, small world area, arts, crafts area, dress up clothes, tabletop activities area and sand play activities were available. Each of the areas was well resourced with toys and accessories including sensory and natural materials. Children were observed to choose play materials and complete an activity independently. Defined interest areas were changed on a regular basis depending on children's emergent interests. Children were observed playing with sand in the outdoor play area.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

There were lots of potted plants which included herbs and flowers which supported childrens interest in gardening, planting and growing.

Soft seating consisting of cushions and floor mats were available in the room where children could rest and relax and have some quiet time if they choose to opt out of an activity. Good supplies of books were available which helped support language development.

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 held current certification in first aid responder (FAR) for children.

(2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the playroom.

(b)The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child.

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) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place on 18/05/2026.

(b)The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently on 25/09/2025 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises.

(4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the room.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available to cover the number of children in attendance.