

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LS022
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Name of Service:	Crettyard Childcare
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Address of Service:	The Parish Centre, Newtown, Crettyard, Co. Laois
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Eircode:	R93 Y7K4
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Name of Registered Provider:	Niamh Campion
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	04/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Inspection undertaken by:	K. Murphy
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

The age range of children that the service is registered to accommodate is 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates on a Monday to Friday basis. An afternoon session is not in operation this academic year. The service is operated by a community provider. The Early Years' Service is located in a single storey community facility. One pre-school room, a kitchen and an office are provided. Outdoor play areas are attached to the rear of the service. Onsite parking and set down facilities are provided. The service is rural in its location in the village of Newtown Crettyard, County Laois.

Staffing

The service employs four adults including a person in charge and three childcare practitioners. Two adults were present and working with the children on 4 June 2026. The registered provider does not work directly with the children and was not present during the inspection.

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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9- Management and recruitment - (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(c)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

Regulation 16 – Record of a Pre-school Service - (1)

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

Regulation 20 – Rest and play facilities

Regulation 21- Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 24- Checking in and Out and Record of Attendance

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

Regulation 26 -Fire safety measures - (1)(a)(b)(2)(3)(4)

Regulation 27- Supervision

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 designated person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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-

- (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*

(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)

A named person to deputise was available as required.

(b)

The named person to deputise was present for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

In the entrance hall a notice relating to the name of the person in charge and designated persons in the absence of the person in charge as well as any specific roles and responsibilities undertaken by staff was clearly displayed.

Following a review of previous inspection findings, information available on inspection and discussion with the designated person in charge, it was determined that no new childcare practitioners had commenced in the service since the last inspection on the 5 December 2024.

(2)(c)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available and the service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

An in date garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of the registered provider and four childcare practitioners.

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)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

(2)

There were eighteen children attending the service supervised directly by two adults.

(8)(a)

The time sheet records indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)

Written records of information in relation to the service in accordance with Regulation 16 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(h)(i)(j) and (k) were available and reviewed.

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-

(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

(1)(b)

The children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development. There was a calm and happy atmosphere in the service. Adults were observed to be positive towards children evidenced by individual names used, eye contact and praise for children on completion of activities. Staff were observed to offer support and praise to each child for their involvement in activities and the children's choices were supported. Staff provided positive redirection to children and intervened if a minor dispute arose among the children. A key person system is in operation in the service which helped to promote the emotional security for children. Staff members sat with children and assisted them as required with conversations and interactions noted between staff and children during meals and snacks.

Children were content with their carers and staff were familiar with each child and their personality. Good teamwork between the staff members was observed during the inspection.

Children were encouraged to be independent as they washed their hands and went to the toilet independently under the supervision of staff. All children enjoyed moving freely from one play experience to the next in the indoor and outdoor environments. Children were encouraged to be independent in caring for their belongings and putting on their coats. A daily leader system was in place to build confidence in the children and promote turn taking. The service worked in partnership with parents and used a social media platform to provide daily and weekly updates to parents. A newsletter is circulated to families at the end of each month. Artwork and observations are shared with parents. The children's learning journals which are shared with parents depict children's developmental progress and activities during the year.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment were provided indoors and outdoors.

(b)

Soft furnishings provided appropriate rest facilities in the pre-school room for any child who wished to avail of rest and relaxation.

(3)(a)

A large garden area was located to the rear of the service and available to the children. The perimeter was secured by a high-level concrete wall and wire fence. A separate sheltered play area with an all-weather absorbent surface was located adjacent to the pre-school room. The outdoor area was equipped with a variety of swings, slides, rockers, tables and benches, a covered sand pit, a seesaw, a stationary wooden train for imaginative play as well as wall mounted chalk boards, a music wall, a water wall and a variety of bikes and trikes.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

A variety of suitable play materials and equipment was available to support children in various types of creative, manipulative, sensory, imaginary and free play in the indoor environment in the service.

Age and stage appropriate toys and materials were accessible to children on low level open shelving interest areas included home corners, construction areas, arts and crafts, sensory trays and dress up.

Equipment was well maintained, durable and easy to clean. The tables and chairs were child sized suitable to each child's age and development. Personal belongings and bags were stored individually for each child.

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 entrance door to the service was secure to ensure the safety of the children within the service. The Inspector signed the visitors book in the reception area of the service. Daily checklists were available and reviewed in respect of the pre-school room and the sanitary accommodation. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

The premises were visually clean. All toys and materials were easily cleanable. Cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. Warm water, paper hand towel, liquid soap was available in the sanitary accommodation and nappy changing area. Children were observed to wash their hands on return from outdoor play, before meals and after using the toilet. Foot operated pedal bins were available in the sanitary accommodation and in the pre-school room for the hygienic disposal of waste. Natural ventilation was available through openable windows in the pre-school room, sanitary accommodation and nappy changing area.

Administration of Medication:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature and stored safely in the service. The administration of medication records were available and reviewed and correct procedures were in place for the administration of medication.

Fire Safety:

Fire exit routes were unobstructed and a fire assembly point was noted to the front of the premises.

Outing:

The outings policy, a risk assessment and checklist were reviewed in respect of outings from the service.

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.

(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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The records of arrival and departure reviewed verified that each child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by a staff member.

(3)(a)

All entry to the service with the exception of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) has to be approved by a staff member.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(b)

A visitor log was in place to record the details and purpose of all visitors to the service. The inspector signed the visitor book on arrival.

(4)

The visitor log is retained throughout the annual operation of the service.

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)

Three adults were qualified in first aid response (FAR). The roster indicated that FAR cover was provided during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

A first aid box was available in a central location in the pre-school room.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 firefighting 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)

There was a record of fire drills carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 13 May 2026.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced in August 2025. The smoke alarms were serviced in February 2026.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were noted in conspicuous locations in the premises.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

Children were supervised by staff during play activities both indoors and outdoors. A staff member supervised the children's use of the toilet and handwashing.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27 March 2027.