

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LS059
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Name of Service:	Aishlings Little Angels
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Address of Service:	Cullohill Community Centre, Cullohill Village, Co. Laois
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Eircode:	R32 YK29
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aishling Aylward
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	15/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	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).

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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 between the hours of 09:30 and 12:30 on a Monday to Friday basis.

The Early Years' Service is located on the ground floor of a community hall. One pre-school room and a kitchen are provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the front of the premises. Parking facilities are available locally. The service is rural in its location in the village of Cullohill, County Laois.

Staffing

The registered provider employs two adults. On 15 June 2026 the registered provider and two childcare practitioners were present and working directly with the children in the service.

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) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (4)

Regulation 11 -Staffing levels - (1)(3)

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc

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

Regulation 20 – Rest and play facilities (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 24- Checking in and Out and Record of Attendance (1)(3)(4)

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

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

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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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 registered provider was available as required.

(b)

The registered provider and a named person to deputise were present for the duration of the inspection.

Three files were reviewed including the file of the registered provider and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a past employer in respect of the files reviewed. Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider from a past employer.

(c)

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A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the three files reviewed.

The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was available in respect of two staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

The staff members working directly with children held a major award at level 5 to 7 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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)

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

(3)

There were fifteen children attending the service supervised directly by three adults.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

A copy of the of Part V11A (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No.40 of 2013)) of the Act and Regulations was available for inspection by (a)(b)(c).

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. 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. Conversations and interactions were noted between staff and children during the mid-morning snack.

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 responsible in caring for their belongings and

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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 provided daily updates to parents at collection time. A newsletter is circulated to families at the end of each month. The children's learning journals which are shared with parents depict children's developmental progress and activities during the year.

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.

(2) A registered provider-

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool 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.

(2)(b)

An outdoor play area was located to the front of the service and available to the children. The perimeter was secured by a concrete wall with high level fencing and a metal gate. A concrete surface area was noted with a small raised natural grass and planted area. The outdoor area was equipped with a variety of sand and water trays, a vegetable growing area and a construction and kitchen area.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

Parents and guardians provided the mid-morning healthy snacks for children attending the ECCE session. The children were observed to eat a variety of sandwiches, wraps and crackers with fillings as well as a selection of fruit, vegetable and dairy products. The children drank water which was readily accessible to the children throughout the inspection. Chopped kiwi and bananas were provided by the registered provider to introduce children to a variety of fruits. A refrigerator was available for the storage of perishable food products if required.

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. 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 and liquid soap was available in the sanitary accommodation. Children were observed to wash their hands on return from outdoor play, before snacks 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 sanitary accommodation.

Administration of Medication:

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Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature and stored safely in the service.

Fire Safety:

The fire exit routes from the service were unobstructed. A fire assembly point was noted to the front of the premises.

Outing:

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.

(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)

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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)

Two adults were qualified in first aid response (FAR) and available in the service during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

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

(b)

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

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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 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 3 June 2026.

(b)

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

(4)

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

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.