

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO102
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Name of Service:	Robeen Community Playschool
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Address of Service:	Robeen, Hollymount, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F12 X761
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tomas Geraghty
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	21/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	63	PM	44
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
Inspection undertaken by:	B. Lavin and S. Meehan.
Title:	Early Years Inspectors.

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

Robeen Community Playschool is a community-based service located in a rural area in Robeen, Co Mayo. The service is registered to provide full day care services to children aged between 0 and 6 years from 08:00-17:30 hours. Facilities provided for preschool children include three playrooms located on the ground floor and a playroom located on the first floor. A separate sleep room is provided for the younger children in the service on the ground floor. There are sanitary facilities provided for children and staff with outdoor play areas available to the children on the premises. The service is registered to provide a school aged childcare service.

Staffing

There are 22 staff working in the service including childcare workers, a manager and cook. The registered provider does not work 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

On inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 10. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) within this report.

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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.

Additional Information

A referral was made to the fire officer on the 22 May 2026.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, 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*

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- (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.*
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*
- (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 designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the person in charge was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.
- (2) Following a review of the service files and discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that there were 3 members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 20/03/2025.
- The files for the three new staff members were inspected.
- (a) There were five written and appropriately validated references available from a previous employer.
- (b) There was one written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than a previous employer for one staff member.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 23 staff. The service did adhere 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 disclosures were available for two adults working in the service as they had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months.
- (4) Nineteen staff working directly with the children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Non-Compliance Information

- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were not carried out completely before two staff members were appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

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(4) There were two staff members working directly with children who was unable to provide evidence that they had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at least to level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service reviewed the qualification status of all staff members following the inspection. One staff member has provided evidence of qualification recognition. The second staff member has been allocated to school-age childcare duties only and is not counted towards the preschool qualification requirement while qualification recognition is being processed. An application has been submitted through the fast-track qualification recognition process and the service is currently awaiting a decision. Management will continue to monitor progress and ensure compliance with qualification requirements.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation evidence submitted to the office of the Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- The nappy changing policy did not state that adults' hands must be washed before and after nappy changing.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The nappy changing policy has been reviewed and updated. A staff supervision meeting took place and staff received training on the updated policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of the updated nappy changing policy submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

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Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection.

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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children attending the preschool service.
- There were 16 adults working directly with children on the day of inspection. In addition, the person in charge provided cover for breaks.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were provided on the morning of inspection in accordance with the required ratios considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:
- Toddler room: Five adults cared for 20 children aged between 1 and 2 years of age.
 - Senior preschool room: Four adults cared for 19 children aged between 4 and 5 years of age.
 - Baby room: Three adults cared for 9 children aged between 9 months and 1 year old.
 - Junior preschool: Four adults cared for 15 children aged between 2 and 4 years of age.
- The cook was preparing, cooking, serving and storing the meals and snacks for the children. The person in charge assisted with the administration part of the inspection, when necessary, on the day of inspection.
- (8) There were at least two adults present in the service during the operation hours of the service.

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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, and

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

(1)(a)

- Drinking water was available on low tables in each playroom to all children throughout the day.
- Nutritious healthy meals were served at regular times with flexibility given for children who were sleeping.
- Care and attention were taken during mealtimes to eat at the child's pace and staff encouraged and supported children to feed themselves independently according to their age and stage of development.
- Children sat at tables and chairs which were appropriate for their height and/or stage of development.
- The staff were observed sitting at the child's level and chatted in a respectful manner during meal and snack times.
- The privacy and dignity of each child was respected during toileting practices.
- Staff responded to each child's individual needs and children's nappies were changed in a timely manner.
- Appropriate rest facilities were available in the care rooms and children were observed spending time in these areas for short periods of rest throughout the day.
- The children's nap and sleep times were tailored to each child's individual needs.
- The children had easy access to the outside areas throughout the day. Children moved freely between indoors and outdoors. The children spent considerable time outdoors in the well-equipped outdoor play areas on the day of inspection.

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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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The entrance door into the pre-school was secure to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child. There was a buzzer access system.
- The outdoor play areas were secure, so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area or children could not exit unsupervised.

Infection Control:

- Perishable items from children's lunch boxes were stored in each playroom fridge.
- Children washed their hands before snack/lunch time and after outdoor play.
- A steriliser was available for sterilising soothers and soothers were individually labelled in containers.

Safe Sleep:

- A supply of clean linen was available for each child. All linen provided was clean, dry and stored in sealed labelled containers within the designated sleep rooms.
- Cellular blankets that allow air to circulate were used for all children under 1 year old.

Non-Compliance Information

The following non compliances may pose as a safety risk to children:

General Safety:

1. There were two bolts on the fire emergency door out of the Toddler room on the ground floor.
2. A baby gate was blocking the emergency fire exit from the Junior room which may pose as a safety risk to children.

The following may pose as a risk of cross infection for a preschool child:

Infection Control:

3. At 10:35 in the nappy changing area off the Toddler playroom there were 2 training potties with urine in each of them. This was brought to the attention of the adults by the inspectors.
4. Two of five adults were observed at nappy changing and did not wash children's hands after nappy changing.

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5. In the Toddler room nappy changing area three barrier creams were not individually labelled with a child's name and were in use.

Safe Sleep:

6. During sleep time in the designated sleep area in the Toddler room the area was dark at the back of the sleep area. There was insufficient ambient light to allow staff to properly conduct the required physical sleep checks on sleeping children. This may present as a safety risk to sleeping children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- (1) Following the inspection the bolts were removed immediately from the door in the toddler room. The fire officer visited on the 27TH of May 2026 and assessed all fire safety arrangements. Staff have been reminded of emergency evacuation procedures and the importance of maintaining clear unobstructed emergency exits at all times.
- (2) The baby gate was removed immediately. The fire officer visited on the 27TH of May 2026 and assessed all fire safety arrangements. Staff have been reminded of emergency evacuation procedures and the importance of maintaining clear unobstructed emergency exits at all times.

Infection Control:

- (3) Following the inspection, a staff supervision meeting was held to address all issues relating to infection control, hygiene practices and nappy changing procedures. Staff have received retraining in these areas.
- (4) Following the inspection, a staff supervision meeting was held to address all issues relating to infection control, hygiene practices and nappy changing procedures. Staff have received retraining in these areas. The nappy changing policy has been reviewed and updated.
- (5) Following the inspection, a staff supervision meeting was held to address all issues relating to infection control, hygiene practices and nappy changing procedures. Staff have received retraining in these areas.

Safe Sleep:

- (6) A new light was fitted with a dimmer switch. There is now sufficient light with an ambient glow so staff can now conduct checks for children's safe sleep. This will be monitored through risk assessments of the care room.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Documentation submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

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Infection Control:

Documentation submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Safe Sleep:

Documentation submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately addressed the non-compliances found on inspection.

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 staff had current First Aid Responder training (FAR) completed and were available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box safely stored in each care room and easily accessible to staff on the premises.
- (b) These first aid boxes were adequately stocked with the required items.