

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN032
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Name of Service:	Lean ar Aghaidh Resource Centre
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Address of Service:	Corlann West, Roxboro, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
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Eircode:	F42 RD21
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Name of Registered Provider:	Margaret Hannon
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	04/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	3	PM	2
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
Inspection undertaken by:	A Kennedy
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 provides a preschool service for children referred by the Children's Disability Network teams from mid and south Roscommon. This pre-school service is in a detached premises in the townland of Roxboro, on the outskirts of Roscommon town. The service offers a sessional care programme from 9.15hrs to 12.15hrs, from Monday to Friday. An additional two-hour programme from 13:00hrs to 15.00hrs is offered from Monday to Thursday. The pre-school caters for a maximum of 12 children at any one time, between 3 years to 6 years of age. The service consists of five playrooms namely the Rainbow room, the Garden room, the Sensory room, the Physical Exercise Gross Motor room and the messy playroom. Quiet rest areas with child size seating are available for children to rest or opt out of an activity if he/ she wishes to do so. There is a secure outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises on a daily basis. There is a team leader who is the person in charge. There are ten staff working on the premises to include the team leader and the designated driver.

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 Regulations 9, 11, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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.

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-

- (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.*

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(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 there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, at all times when the pre-school children were present.

(2) It was advised by the person in charge that there has been one new staff member employed since the inspection which was carried out on 22/05/2025.

The nine staff files were reviewed and satisfactory on the previous inspection.

(a)&(b) Two written validated references were on file for the new staff member and were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of all adults employed in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Two adults had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period over 6 months over the age of 18 years and had the required police vetting.

(4) Six of the staff held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Five staff hold a nursing qualification with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. Copies of qualifications were on file for the staff.

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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)(a) At all times during the period of the inspection, the person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(3) Documentary evidence in the form of staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.

On the morning of the inspection, there were three pre-school children aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were five staff working directly with the children. Additionally, the person in charge performed administrative duties. The person in charge ensured that there were two staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

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

- There was a healthy eating policy.
- The person in charge advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by visual aids, and adherence to best practice guidelines.
- Cutlery, plates, and crockery were offered for children's snack times.
- There was evidence that the foods consumed were adequate, nutritious, and varied.
- The children had their morning/afternoon snack which consisted of sandwiches with various fillings, pancakes, rice cakes, crackers, a selection of fruits to include apples and oranges, pasta, yoghurts, sausages and water or juice to drink.
- A refrigerator is provided in the rainbow room for the storage of perishable foods.

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- Clean and safe drinking water was at a low-level and accessible to children in the playroom.

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 main entrance door was secure to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The external play area to the rear of the premises were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trip or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperatures were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Blind cords were securely fastened thereby preventing any potential risk.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all the children attending the service.

Infection Control:

- Children were observed washing their hands after toileting / nappy changing, after messy play and before consuming their snack.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and in designated storage containers.
- The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled and stored within the sanitary areas
- The nappy changing area had a leak-proof, sealable airtight container for the disposal of nappies/pull ups.
- The nappy changing policy was displayed on the wall of the nappy changing area.
- There were cleaning schedules and records for the playrooms, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas and on the cleaning and disinfection procedure undertaken in the service.
- Tabletops, and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray.

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- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Each playroom had a supply of disposable tissues, hand sanitiser, cleaning products, personal protective equipment and separate foot operated lidded bins for disposal of general waste.
- Each room had a bin for mouthed toys, and these were removed immediately after use and sterilised appropriately.

Administration of Medication:

- There were no medications administered to children on the day of the inspection.
- It was advised that nine staff have medication training and the staff demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regards to the safe storage and administration of medication should it be required.

Fire Safety:

- The emergency exits were observed to be free from obstructions at all times during the inspection.

Outings:

- It was advised by the person in charge that the children go on outings to the local library, the pet shop and the local café.
- The service had insurance for outings.
- The person in charge advised that the parents provide consent, the service bus is used, a risk assessment is carried out prior to the outing, emergency numbers are brought and there was a staff member with first aid training, and a first aid box is brought on the outings, in the event of an emergency.

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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 service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid for children, was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Ten staff had current training in first aid for children.
- (2)(a) There were two first aid bags / boxes with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid bags / boxes were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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) A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated 28 May 2026.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 19 November 2025.
- The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 9 March 2026.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

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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 certification of adequate insurance which had an expiry date of 20th of October 2026.

The insurance included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a) The service was maintained in an appropriate and adequate state of repair.
- (b) The entrance into the service and the outdoor play area to the rear of the premises were adequately secured. to prevent a child exiting and an unauthorised person entering the premises.
- (c) The playrooms were adequately lit, ventilated, and heated.
- (d) The premises was maintained in a clean, orderly and hygienic condition.
- (e) The sanitary facilities were adequate for the needs and requirements of the children attending the service.