

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE010
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Name of Service:	Sixmilebridge & District Community Services CLG
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Address of Service:	Shannon Road, Sixmilebridge, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 X886
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Name of Registered Provider:	Yvonne Keogh
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date 1 of Inspection:	14/07/2026
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Date 2 of Inspection:	15/07/2026
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No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	37	PM	34
No of pre-school children Day 2:	AM	36	PM	33

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare
Inspection undertaken by:	J. Hayes & Á. McCarthy
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

Sixmilebridge & District Community Services CLG was established in 2009 in the current premises, as a community-based service. The childcare facility is located in a single storey building that accommodates six care rooms. During the inspection three of the six pre-school rooms were in operation. A programme of early learning and care is facilitated Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 17:30. Designated, enclosed outdoor play areas can be accessed from each care room. A school aged childcare service is provided each afternoon and during summer holidays.

Staffing

Twenty-seven adults are employed by the service. On the 14 and 15 July 2026, the childcare manager, twelve adults who worked directly with the pre-school children, an adult who prepares, cooks and serves the food were present. The registered provider is part of the voluntary board of management and does not work directly with the children. Evidence of the adults engagement in ongoing professional development was available on staff files.

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

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This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and premises and facilities. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (3) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (3) (8)(a)

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

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance (1) (3)(a)(b)

Regulation 29-Premises (b)(d)(e)

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the childcare manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN 2982	15/07/2026	Evidence of International Police Vetting was not available for one staff member who had access to children.
Status	Action was taken by the service immediately following service of the Notice and a response to the IAN was received on 16 July 2026 which detailed corrective and preventive actions which were accepted. The outstanding International Police vetting document was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate on 17 August 2026.	

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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, 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.*

(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.

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Compliance Information

(1)(a)

A designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available throughout the inspection.

(b)

The designated person in charge was available in the service during the inspection.

(2)

Twenty-seven files were available in respect of the registered provider and the adults working in the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

Thirty-two written and validated references from past employers in respect of adults working in the service were available.

(b)

Twenty-two written and validated references from a source other than a past employer in respect of adults working in the service were available.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for twenty-seven adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications from Level 5 to Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN 2982 served.

(3)

The vetting procedures outlined in paragraph (2) were not carried out prior to all adults commencing in the service. This posed a potential risk to the safety of children attending the service.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

Once the service became aware that the one staff members police clearance was mislaid and not on file, an application was submitted online for a new police clearance.

The staff member has been removed from their room and will not have direct access with children until their new police clearance is back in place on their file.

(3)

The service will as always ensure that all new staff are vetted both through the Irish vetting system and from any other country they have lived in. Staff files will be checked and inspected regularly to ensure all relevant documents are on file and up to date with current regulations and to stop incidents like this occurring in the future. Only managers will be allowed to access the staff files and remove any documents from the files.

Supporting documentation submitted

Confirmation of application for police clearance submitted. The outstanding International Police vetting documents.

Summary Comment

The actions taken will address the non compliance under Regulation 9(2)(d) and 9(3).

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)-

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(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 worked directly with the children attending the pre-school service
- (3)
During the inspection the ratio of adults caring for the children was maintained at all times. On the 14 July 2026 ten adults cared for thirty-seven pre-school children attending in the morning and nine adults cared for thirty-four pre-school children attending in the afternoon. On the 15 July 2026 ten adults cared for thirty-six pre-school children attending in the morning and eight adults cared for thirty-three pre-school children attending in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available on the premises at all times.

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)
The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment having regard to the age and developmental stage of the children.
- Supporting Relationships Around Children:**
The adults interacted with the children in a kind and respectful manner. The adults listened attentively and conversed with the children at their level and responded promptly to their cues for assistance. The children were held and hugged. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions, and the children were offered praise and encouragement. The adults demonstrated an awareness of the children's personal interests and capabilities.

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The adults supported the children in individual and group play based activities and engaged in open ended discussions, song and rhymes.

The children were treated in a sensitive manner during nappy changes and the adults interacted with the children in a positive manner. The children were encouraged to be independent while caring for their belongings, their play materials and equipment, at mealtime and whilst using the toilet. The babies and children were placed to sleep when they displayed signs of tiredness. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their age and level of development. Children were notified in advance of transitions in activities. A very strong sense of teamwork was evident across the service. The management team were supportive and promoted an ethos of continuous professional development and improvement.

Parents/guardians collect the children from the care room exit points. The adults discuss the children's day and observations with the parent/guardians during drop off and collection times. The children's observations are shared with the parents during the day on the electronic system. Individual learning journals were available demonstrating children's progression and creative work.

Physical and Material Environment:

The programme of learning and care was facilitated in three care rooms and in the outdoor play areas. The children engaged in open ended tabletop and floor-based activities in the indoor environment. The care rooms were bright and adequately resourced for the age range and stage of development of the children. Designated areas of interest were accessible and were appropriately equipped with supporting materials and equipment for the children. The defined interest areas included home corners, dress up areas, rest and reading areas, low level shelving units were equipped with a large quantity of imaginative, constructive and manipulative based equipment and materials. The walls were illustrated with children's artwork, learning activities for the week, geographical, numerical and literacy learning aids.

Designated outdoor play areas were accessible from each of the care rooms. The service offered well-resourced spaces for the children to engage in outdoor play-based activities. The outdoor play areas were enclosed by a wall and gates. The outdoor play areas accommodated partially covered sections and shaded areas.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1)

The pre-school children attending the service were signed in and out of the service on the service electronic application system.

(3)(a)

The manager monitored and approved access of all visitors to the service.

(b)

A visitor's book was available at the entrance to the service. All visitors to the service were recorded in the book.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

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

- (b) safe and secure,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(b)

The service was maintained in a safe and secure manner as follows:

A key coded, bell operated system, camera surveillance and a high-level switch were in place to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.

A record of attendance was available and completed by visitors to the service.

The outdoor area was secured with a concrete wall and fencing to protect the children within.

The children were signed in and out on arrival and departure to the service on the childcare electronic application system.

Storage facilities were secured and inaccessible to the children.

A risk assessment was available demonstrating the measures taken by the service to mitigate risk.

(d)

The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and in an adequate state of repair. Cleaning schedules were available demonstrating measures taken to clean service.

(e)

The children had access to sanitary facilities adjacent to each of the care rooms. The children's sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped with child sized toilets and wash hand basins. Two nappy changing facilities were available and appropriately equipped with changing mats. Two adult sanitary facilities were also available.