

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DL143
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Tiny Tots 2 Teens
-------------------------	-------------------

Address of Service:	Castlegardens, Drumboe, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	F93 YF80
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre O'Neill
-------------------------------------	-----------------

Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
----------------------	---------------------

Date of Inspection:	23/07/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	10
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F92 TD92
Inspection undertaken by:	S Killeen & N Toner
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

This privately owned preschool service is in the town of Stranorlar, Co. Donegal. The preschool caters for children aged between 2 to 6 years, from Monday to Friday between 07:30 and 18:30. This preschool service offers the option of full day care, an (ECCE) Early Childhood Care and Education and sessional care programme from 9 am to 12 pm. This preschool service operates from converted retail units in small enterprise centre. The service has 3 childcare playrooms and a school aged playroom. The pre-school children have an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises for play activities, exploration, and fresh air. On the day of inspection, the service was offering a Summer Camp. Only one room was open the day of the inspection.

Staffing

A total of sixteen adults is employed in the service and work directly with the preschool children. The registered provider works in the service and is the person in charge. The ten adults working directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or equivalent.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations

9(1)(2)(3)(4), 11(1)(2)(4), 19(1)(a)(b), 23, 24(1)(3), 25(1)(2) and 26(1)(2)(4). These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 24 checking in and out and record of attendance.

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

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN1581	23/07/2026	Evidence of Garda Vetting was not available for one adult who was on the premises and had access to the pre-school children.
Status	The register provider submitted corrective and preventive actions which addressed the statutory notice.	

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-*
- (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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1) The register provider ensured that.
- (a) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person to deputise in the event of their absence.
 - (b) The person in charge observed to was onsite at all times during the operation of the service.
 - (c) Information on the service's management structure was provided during the inspection identifying the lines of authority, roles and responsibilities of employees. The service also had management and staff structure displayed on notice boards outside both care rooms.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge, it was determined that six new adults had been employed since the previous inspection. One of the appointed adults worked directly with the children. Five of the adults were employed to work in the school age service. A total of six files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for three adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.
- (a) Six written validated references from past employers for six of the adults were available for review.
 - (b) Six written validated reference from reputable sources for six adults were available for review.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for five adults.
 - (d) International police vetting from police authorities in another state was not required as no adult had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.
- (4) Evidence of completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications was on file for one adult who required it.

Non-Compliance Information

- (9) (c)
- See Statutory notice in relation to Improvement notice IN 1581 served.
- (3) A review of documentation evidenced that the requirements of Regulation 9(2) (c) had not been completed prior to an adult being appointed, assigned, or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the preschool service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

9 (c)

The adult with no garda vetting on file left the premises immediately. Management will ensure that all volunteers, and students are fully garda vetted before being permitted access to the premises. No individual will be allowed on the premises until the vetting process has been completed and confirmed.

9 (3) Management will ensure that all volunteers, and students are fully garda vetted before being permitted access to the premises. No individual will be allowed on the premises until the vetting process has been completed and confirmed.

Supporting documentation submitted

9 (c) Photographic evidence has been submitted to the inspectorate.

9 (3). Photographic evidence has been submitted to the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted has adequately addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 9(c) 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) There were an adequate number of adults caring for the pre-school children on the day of the unannounced inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children ratio were provided on the day of the inspection in accordance with the required ratio considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as follows:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Full day care room :2 staff cared for 10 children ranging in ages from 2-5 years.

When assessed in the afternoon, the following was observed.

- Full day care room: 2 staff cared for 10 children ranging in ages from 2-5 years.

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

(1) (a)

Basic Needs

- The service has a healthy eating policy in place and provides all meals and snacks to the children in the service. A three-week menu plan was available for review. The service gives parents the option to send additional snacks, the service actively reminds parents that these items must be nutritious and align with the services healthy eating policy. The main meal on the day of inspection was chicken curry. Appropriate cutlery and crockery were given to children. Mealtime appeared to be a pleasurable experience with staff sitting with the children and engaging in conversation.
- Nappy changing was observed within the service, and staff members were seen to take this time as an opportunity for one-to-one engagement with the preschool child. The older children were encouraged to use the bathroom independently and staff members positioned within ear shot to help if required.
- Transitions throughout the day were managed in a timely and sensitive manner. Staff were observed giving the children time to finish activity's by giving them reminders of time left before next activity started. It was evident from the children's behaviour that they were familiar and comfortable with the normal routine of the day. Children were given the opportunity to make choices and decisions regarding their play and staff were observed to respect children's choices and facilitate their decisions.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting Relationships:

- Staff were heard praising children for their behaviours, particularly when they were helpful to others, sharing resources and developing new skills. Children were observed playing together in pairs or small groups and this was uninterrupted by staff, allowing children the opportunity to develop social relationships with their peers.
- The service operated a key worker system whereby staff record observations on children and use these to inform their feedback to parents and plan for the individual learning needs of each child. The service communicates daily with parents at drop off and collection.
- Staff were observed to carry out their role in a relaxed, unhurried, manner supporting children throughout each of the day's activities. The indoor environment was bright, welcoming and spacious with a variety of well-developed interest areas.

Physical Materials:

- The equipment was laid out in a manner that provided children the opportunity to move around and choose their play materials.
- The interest areas were spacious enough to allow small groups of children to play together, and children were observed engaged in sustained play both in pairs and in small groups on the day of inspection. The equipment and materials were carefully considered with a range of plastic play materials alongside natural open-ended materials and traditional home style furniture. A range of fine motor play items was available in the room including jigsaws, shape sorters, peg boards, magnets and plastic bricks.
- The room also contained dress up, construction, and baby care items to promote imaginary play. Children also had access to a range of art and junk materials promoting their creative expression and sensory play
- There was a small supply of age-appropriate books and reading materials was accessible to the children. The outdoor play area consisted of a secured section at the rear of the premises which. The area was resourced with play items such as a small slide, playhouse and picnic benches. Additional items were added to the area by staff such as a tuff tray water.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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:

- On arrival to the service the external doors were secure to prevent an unauthorised person entering the service and children from exiting the service unnoticed.
- The outdoor area was secured with high walls and a bolted gate to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning products used in the service were securely stored so as to be inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.

Infection Control:

- The pre-school room and adjoining sanitary facilities were in a clean and hygienic condition. Up to date cleaning schedules outlining appropriate cleaning methods and the various areas to be cleaned within the playrooms and sanitary accommodation were available.
- Staff members were observed cleaning play areas and frequently touched surfaces after children's use and prior to snack time.
- Thermostatically controlled water, soap and hand dryers was readily available to the preschool children to wash their hands prior to eating, after both toileting and nappy changes. Child friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks. Handwashing was supervised by the adults to ensure all hands were cleaned effectively.
- Aprons and gloves were available and observed in use by staff when changing of a child was required.
- Soothers were stored individually with children's names on them.
- The care rooms and sanitary accommodation was adequately ventilated by way of openable windows or mechanical ventilation in cases where no window was available
- Foot operated pedal bins were available within the service for safe disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered on the day of inspection. On discussion with the staff members, they were knowledgeable about the service medication policy. Medication consent forms were in place and administration record templates were available if the service required them. The inspector

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

reviewed a sample of administration of medication records and found that these had been completed in adherence to the service policy. Support plans were available for the children who required them for the administration of specialised medication and a clear protocol to follow.

Safe Sleep:

- Stackable floor beds were available for children over two years of age.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.

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 service demonstrated that all children are checked in on arrival and checked out on departure. A record of these times is maintained in the service.

(3) (a) (b) On the day of the inspection, staff authorised entry of the inspectors and recorded this visit in the visitors 'log.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 registered provider demonstrated with certification that two adults were trained in (FAR) first aid responder training. A review of the roster demonstrated that there was a person with first aid for children available at all times to the children attending the service.
- (2) (a) (b) First aid boxes were sufficiently resourced with suitable equipment and were stored in a conspicuous position available to children as required.

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.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(c) an authorised person.

(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 procedure was in place to practice and record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill was dated the 15th of June 2026.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(a) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service was on file. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 01 October 2025.

(b) The records for the smoke detection system indicated the last service occurred in 17 of June 2026.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) was available and open to inspection by-

(c) an authorised person.

(4) On the day of inspection, a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were observed to be displayed in a conspicuous place within the premises.