

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK047
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Name of Service:	Clanmaurice Preschool
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Address of Service:	1 Clanmaurice Gardens, Ennis Road, Limerick, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 WE54
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ruth O'Neill
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	10/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	3
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan
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

Clanmaurice Preschool is a private, preschool facility located in Limerick city. It is focused on delivering early childhood care and education to children between 2 and 6 years. The service runs a part-time, and a sessional service from Monday through Friday, with operating hours from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. With a maximum capacity of 22 children, the school maintains a structured environment that supports individualised developmental attention. Learning is distributed across a large well-resourced preschool room and physical development, and nature interaction are integrated through a dedicated outdoor space at the rear of the building.

Staffing

The facility is managed by the registered provider who is the owner-manager of the service. She is accompanied by a second qualified staff who deliver direct care and instruction to the children. A relief staff member is also available. All adults have accredited qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education. To enhance the inclusive environment, one staff has attained specialised certification through the Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years (LINC) programme. This advanced training equips the service to implement targeted inclusive strategies, ensuring comprehensive support for children with diverse learning and developmental needs.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities. 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 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.

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,*

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(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) On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge of operating the service and there was a named person available who was able to deputise if needed. A relief person was also available if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider was present on the premises. The staff roster indicated that a person in charge was available each day at the school.

Staff files were reviewed, and the following was noted,

(2)(a) Two written and validated references from past employers were available for all adults working at the service and for the relief staff member.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from reputable sources available.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff employed at the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required for any of the staff members at the service.

(4) All adults working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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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.

(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) On the day of the inspection there were 12 pre-school children on the premises for the morning sessional service. There were 3 children present for the extended service up to 1.00pm. There were 2 adults at the preschool from the time of opening to closing the service each day. The adult/child ratio was correct.

(2) The written staff roster showed that the registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at the service each day the service was operational.

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:

The service followed a healthy eating policy, encouraging parents to provide nutritious snacks for children's lunchtime each day. A variety of sandwiches and fruits were observed in the children's lunches. Drinks were removed from children's bags and made accessible throughout the session. Toilets were easily accessible next to the preschool rooms, with handwashing facilities that included hot water, soap, and paper towels. A change of clothes and protective clothing for outdoor play in wet weather were available. Tissues, wipes, and proper waste disposal in foot pedal operated bins were provided. Indoors soft cushions and floor mats next to the library stand

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provided a quiet space for children if required. Outside, children had access to a well-equipped outdoor play area for active play.

Supporting Relationships around children.

The service successfully cultivated a sense of belonging and wellbeing by prioritising positive relationships. Staff members directly helped children build and maintain meaningful connections through tailored communication, ensuring they communicated with children at their eye level and addressed each individual by name. To build peer-to-peer relationships, the school coordinated a balanced mix of small and large group tasks that effectively encouraged teamwork, mutual assistance, and shared identity.

The provider also nurtured positive partnerships with families through a dedicated, ongoing communications strategy. Before children started their preschool education, management organised private meetings to take prospective families on a tour of the service and review operational guidelines. Daily updates during drop-off and pick-up times kept parental involvement effective. Additionally, staff regularly sent digital photos and videos to give parents a clear window into daily school life, while a prominent, centrally located notice board in the reception area offered an opportunity for parents and guardians to view lots of shared resources. Finally, long-term retention of the same staff ensured organisational stability for the families.

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 external entrance door was locked and safely secured. Exit routes from the outdoor play areas were safely secured with a double lock on the gate and children were supervised at all times while outdoors.
- The person in charge ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children and adults present in the service. Children were signed in on arrival and signed out at home time.
- Safe storage, well out of children's reach was available for the cleaning agents and cleaning equipment used in the service.
- Fire doors leading from the preschool were clear and unobstructed.

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Infection Control:

- A high standard of operational hygiene was observed in all areas of the premises both internally and externally.
- All tabletops were adequately cleaned before and after mealtimes.
- Staff were observed supervising and encouraging children to wash their hands after using sanitary facilities and following messy play activities.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service had a current insurance certificate which outlined that adequate insurance was available for 22 preschool children to attend the service. The insurance cover commenced on the 28th of March 2026 and expired on the 27th of March 2027.

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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-

- (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 premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure. No identification of any building defects were observed on inspection.
- (b) The entrance to the service was secured and all visitor access was managed appropriately. The outdoor areas were safe and secured, preventing any unauthorised access to or exit from the area. Blind cords on all windows were safely secured on tension hooks.
- (c) Protective covers were provided on all fluorescent light fittings.
- (d) The premises throughout appeared clean with a high standard of operational hygiene noted in all areas of the premises.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodations were provided next to the preschool room. A nappy changing facility was provided if required.