

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO121
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Tigh na Leanaí Childcare Ltd
-------------------------	------------------------------

Address of Service:	Swinford Road, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo
----------------------------	------------------------------------

Eircode:	F12 ET82
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Chloe Shannon
-------------------------------------	---------------

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

Date of Inspection:	19/08/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	37
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Killeen
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Tigh na Leanai Crèche & Playschool is a full day care service located in Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo. The service is registered to cater for children aged between 0 and 6 years between 08:00 - 18:00 hours. Sessional services are provided from 09:00 to 12:00 hours. The premises consists of a detached two storey building adapted for the provision of early years services with two playrooms, three sleep rooms, a kitchen and ancillary facilities. There is a detached purpose-built single storey building with a large playroom, staff room, ancillary facilities and office. Large enclosed outdoor play areas are provided to the rear and side of the buildings.

Staffing

There are 16 adults in the service including the registered provider who works directly with the children, childcare staff, relief staff, a cook/maintenance staff and an adult who provides regular music sessions for the children.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,1 (a)(b)(c),2(a)(b)(c)(d),4,11(1)(2),19 (1)(a),23, 24,1,3(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(b),4,25.1, (2)(a)(b),28,29(a)(b)(c)(d)(e),

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

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.*

(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 registered provider ensured that.
 - (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises for the duration of the inspection. On a review of staff attendance records the person in charge or deputy person in charge was always present in the service.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in the service. A governance chart displayed the lines of accountability in the service. On discussion with staff members, they were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on the inspection and through discussion with the registered provider onsite, it was determined that no new adults had been employed since the last inspection on 01 May 2025. The file for 15 staff was compliant upon the service's last inspection and therefore, were not reviewed on this inspection.
 - (c) Garda vetting for 9 adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (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 or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent was reviewed at last inspection 01 May 2025 for 14 adults and found to be compliant.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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 inspector's unannounced arrival at the service, 9 adults were working directly with 33 children. Adequate staff were available throughout the inspection to work directly with the children and provide relief cover for breaks.

(2) The required minimum ratios were maintained throughout the inspection, taking into account the children's ages and the length of time each child attended the service.

On the morning of the inspection, the following was observed:

- ECCE 1 room: 4 adults cared for 19 children aged between 2-3 years.
- Senior toddler room: 3 adults cared for 8 children aged between 2 -3 years.
- Wobbler room: 2 adults cared for 6 children aged between 11 months-2 years.

On the afternoon of the inspection, the following was observed:

- ECCE 1 room: 5 adults cared for 15 children aged between 2-3 years.
- Senior toddler room: 2 adults cared for 12 children aged between 2 -3 years.
- Wobbler room: 2 adults cared for 10 children aged between 1-2 years.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(19) (a)

Basic Needs:

The person in charge described how the service provides balanced meals and snacks each day. This was supported by a review of the menu plan, discussions with staff members, and observations of meals and snacks throughout the day. Breakfast was served when the children arrive in the morning and the children bring their snack in for the afternoon. The main meal was observed in the wobbler room, where ten children were served mince, potatoes, corn and gravy. Two staff members supported the children, who sat together at a table with appropriately sized chairs. Dinner was served at 11:42am. All children had their drink bottles on the table, and staff encouraged them to take their time and enjoy their meal. Children were supported to feed themselves, with assistance provided where required. Mealtime was observed to be a calm and enjoyable experience, with children appearing relaxed and engaged with their food and with each other. Snack times were also observed in other rooms of the service. These routines were similarly positive, with children observed enjoying their meals and snacks. Water stations were available in all rooms, ensuring that children always had access to drinking water.

The service has two designated sleep rooms with one in operation on the day of inspection. Sleep was observed in the designated sleep room and senior toddler room. The designated sleep room contained nine cots and was darkened to support restful sleep. White noise played softly in the background to create a calming environment. Sleep and rest routines were based on the individual needs of the young children. Children were observed being put down to sleep as required. Sleep was later observed in the senior toddler room, where eight stackable floor beds were placed throughout the room. The room was darkened, and all children were offered the opportunity to sleep or rest according to their needs. In the ECCE1 and senior toddler rooms, rest areas were available to the children including a sensory corner in the senior toddler room with soft furnishing for the children to rest. In all rooms, child-sized or adult couches were provided for children to rest if required. Children were observed in all rooms utilising the rest areas.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Young children had their nappies attended to in a timely manner. Staff used this routine as an opportunity for one-to-one interaction, engaging positively with children through conversation and singing. Older children were encouraged to use the bathroom independently, with staff remaining within earshot to prompt or assist as required.

Supporting Relationships:

There was strong evidence of respect and compassion throughout the service. Staff members were observed to be respectful, gentle and kind in their interactions with the children. During mealtimes, staff sat at the tables and engaged in social conversation with the children, promoting a relaxed and positive atmosphere. Younger children were held and comforted, contributing to a warm and welcoming environment. The service supported children's relationships by keeping parents and guardians fully informed of daily activities using an electronic application, which provided updates on eating, sleeping and nappy-changing routines. Photographs of the children's families displayed on the walls of the care rooms further supported children's sense of security and connection to home.

Physical and material Environment:

The indoor areas were arranged to facilitate a wide range of sensory and creative experiences, including arts and crafts activities and play-dough trays. Fine motor development was supported using jigsaws, shape sorters, crayons and drawing materials, while gross motor development was encouraged through ride on toys, climbing equipment and outdoor ball play. The ECCE1, senior toddler and wobbler rooms contained a variety of play based materials that promoted stimulation, exploration and imagination. These resources were stored on open, accessible shelving, supporting children's independence, choice and spontaneous play. Interest areas were spacious, uncluttered and well-resourced, offering an adequate range of toys and materials. Defined areas included a role-play kitchen with child sized wooden appliances and utensils, dress up areas with a variety of costumes, a reading area with a selection of books to support language development, and a construction area with small cars and trucks. There was a strong emphasis on art and design, with children's creations displayed throughout the service, and children were encouraged to use paints and express their creativity. Positive teamwork was observed in ECCE1 room when staff informed the children it was time to tidy up for circle time. The staff played the clean-up song and all the children assisted with putting the toys away. Staff were observed comforting one child who did not get to put away enough toys as he was in the bathroom. A staff member took some toys from the shelf, and the child assisted with putting them on the shelf. The staff member praised the child for being helpful. The outdoor play area provided a change of environment for the children. Staff informed the inspector that outdoor play is an integral part of the children's day. This was observed on the day of inspection where children wore wet-weather clothing wellington boots and played outside during intermittent rain. The

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

outdoor area was divided into four separate areas, with consideration given to the age and stage of development of the children. A range of developmentally appropriate equipment was provided in the fully enclosed outdoor play area. Opportunities were provided for challenge and safe risk for with climbing frames and large tractor wheels to balance on. The children were observed engaging in energetic play in the designated ride-on bike area. Children were also observed at the sensory tables with water and sand.

Programme of Activities:

Each child had an individual profile on the electronic application which documented outings and activities as well as samples of the children's art and craft work and records of the themes explored. Ongoing observations and assessments were recorded and contributed to building a well-rounded picture of each child's learning and development. These observations were individual to each child and outlined completed tasks and future learning goals. Children's language development was supported through one-to-one and group singing, storytelling and regular circle time. These activities were observed across all three rooms on the day of inspection, with all children encouraged to participate.

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, wooden fencing and a bolted gate to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.
- Child gates were present on the top of the stairs of the senior toddler and wobbler to prevent children accessing the staircase unsupervised.
- The staircase was fitted with a low-level handrail for children's use.
- Cleaning products used in the service were securely stored to be inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Risk assessments on indoor and outdoor play areas were completed daily. There was no evidence of hazards in the indoor or outdoor areas, toys and play equipment appeared in good repair and all electrical flexes and cables were in good condition and out of children's reach.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.
- Staff were observed carrying out headcounts throughout the day before the children transitioned outside and when children transitioned to different rooms during sleep.

Infection Control:

- The pre-school rooms 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 and dinner time.
- Thermostatically controlled water, soap and hand dryers was readily available to the pre-school 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.
- The care rooms and sanitary accommodation was adequately ventilated by way of openable windows or mechanical ventilation in cases where no window was available.
- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- 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. A sample of 18 administration of medication records and 10 Parental consent forms were reviewed and found to be completed in adherence to the service policy.
- Medicines were safely stored out of the reach of children in the office.

Safe Sleep:

- The service had one designated sleep room with nine standard cots available babies under two years of age. A second sleep room is available if the service requires it but was not in use on the day of inspection.
- All standard cots had the required waterproof coverings and cellular blankets were provided.
- Sleep checks were observed to occur every ten minutes and recorded on a software application.
- Stackable floor beds were available for children over two years of age.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire Safety:

- Fire extinguishers were recently serviced and available in the setting.
- Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in the setting.
- Fire evacuation doors were unobstructed throughout the setting.

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 were checked in on arrival and checked out on departure. A record of each child's arrival and departure times was maintained in the service.

(3)

(a) On the day of the inspection, the person in charge authorised the inspector's entry. The person in charge confirmed that all visitors and contractors were required to have entry authorised by the person in charge or another staff member.

(b) A record of the visitors and contractors entering the premises was maintained in the services visitor book. The inspector was asked to sign the visitor book on arrival for the announced inspection.

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, by way of certification, that three adults held current First Aid Responder (FAR) certification. A FAR-trained adult was immediately available to the pre-school children throughout the service's operating hours.
- (2)
- (a) First aid boxes were safely stored in conspicuous locations that were easily accessible to the adults in the care rooms. The first aid boxes contained sufficient in-date supplies of the required materials.
 - (b) The first aid boxes were available for use by the children attending the service at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that adequate insurance was in place for the operation of a full day care service for a maximum of 59 children. The insurance was valid from 28 March 2026 to 27 March 2027.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 sound and stable structure. There were no observable indications of defects in the structure of the premises. The registered provider confirmed she was not aware of any defects to the building.
- (b) The premises was safe and secure. All entry and exit doors were secured to prevent children leaving the premises unsupervised.
- (c) There were adequate lighting and ventilation in all areas of the premises.
- (d) All areas were clean, well maintained and all play materials and equipment were in a proper state of repair. Detailed cleaning schedules for the premises were available in both of the care rooms.
- (e) There were adequate sanitary facilities provided suitable for the needs of the children attending.