

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY156
--------------------------	-------------

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

Address of Service:	Clonmel Community Resource Centre, Kickham Lodge, Kickham Street, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	E91 P2N5
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Cora Gentles
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date of Inspection:	08/07/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	36	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara, Lisa McGeeney & Andrea Madden
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

Tots 2 Teens is a full day care service for children aged 0 to 6 years in the town of Clonmel Co Tipperary. The service is registered to open from 8:00 but they are currently operating from 08:30. Full day care is provided 08:30 to 17:30, Monday to Friday. A sessional early years service is also offered 38 weeks per year. The service is operated as part of a range of services offered by Clonmel Community Resource Centre which is housed in a large two storey building. A purpose-built extension was added to the main building for the purpose of early years care. This space consists of six early years rooms, a sleep room, kitchen, and auxiliary spaces over two floors. Two outdoor play areas are available onsite. A registered school age service is also provided.

Staffing

There are 25 staff working in the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. Staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Education at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Regulation 16 (1) (h, i, j, k) (3) Record in relation to pre-school service,
Regulation 21 Equipment and materials,
Regulation 22 Food and Drink,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,
Regulation 25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First aid,
Regulation 26 (1)(a)(b)(4) Fire safety

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 deputy 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*

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a designated person in charge and a named deputy who was able to deputise, as required.

(b) A person in charge was present on the day of inspection. From a review of the rosters a person in charge was present daily.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the deputy person in charge it was determined that seven new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. A total of seven files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for one staff member whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each person working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for everyone working in the service. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting documentation was available for one staff member working in the service, who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working with pre-school children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 14 staff working directly with 36 children aged between 15 months and 6 years old on the morning of the inspection.

(2) The children and staff were divided between six rooms across two floors as follows:

Downstairs:

Baby room: There were two staff and four children aged between 15 and 21 months old.

Wobbler room: There were three staff and eight children aged between 20 months and 2.5 years old.

Toddler room: There were two staff and seven children aged between 2.5 and 3.5 years old.

Playschool room: There were two staff and five children aged between 2 years 7 months and 4 years old.

Upstairs:

Junior Pre-school room: There was one member of staff and five children aged between 3 and 5 years old.

Senior Pre-school room: There were four staff and seven children aged between 3.5 and 6 years old.

All except two children in the playschool room attended on a part-time or full day care basis.

The acting manager and catering staff were also present in the service but not included in the adult to child ratios.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Detailed daily attendance of each child was available.
 - (i) A detailed staff roster was available.
 - (j) Medication administration records were sampled and were found to meet the necessary requirements. Written parental consent for staff to administer medication had also been obtained.
 - (k) A total of 15 accident and incident records were sampled and deemed satisfactory.
- (3) The written records were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service was well equipped and furnished both indoors and outdoors. Each room was furnished with seating and tables suitable for the age and stage of development of the children using the room and for the staff caring for them. There were highchairs available in the Baby and Wobbler rooms and low chairs with splayed legs available in the Wobbler room. Each room had a cosy area with floor mats and child sized or standard sized sofas. Toys and materials were displayed on open shelves where they could be seen and easily accessed by the children. Accessories were available to support imaginative play in interest areas such as the home corners. Other interest areas indoors included art and craft areas, family photo walls, puzzle and manipulative play areas, small world areas and library/book area.

Separate resources and play experiences were available outside which included: climbing and sliding equipment; play houses; ride-on toys such as balance bikes, tricycles and cars; rockers; sand and water tables; mud kitchen; large areas painted with blackboard paint for drawing on with chalk; balance beams; seating areas with picnic tables and shade umbrellas. Materials indoors and outdoors were well maintained and in good condition.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

The service had a healthy eating policy that was displayed on the premises. The service supplied breakfast, morning snack and dinner to the children, except those in the pre-school rooms who brought their own morning snack. All children brought snacks to eat in the afternoon. Each child had their own drink bottle which was refilled with water as required. Staff ensured that the children were well hydrated during the warm weather by making sure the drink bottles were always refilled and were within reach of the children. Staff also gave the children cooling treats such as ice-lollies in warm weather to ensure they had sufficient fluid intake.

There was a three-week rolling menu plan that detailed the morning snacks and dinners. On the day of inspection, the children were given buttered toast, chopped fruit and cheese for the morning snack at 10am. Dinner on the day of inspection was fish fingers, beans and oven chips. All food supplied by the service was prepared onsite in the kitchen by the catering staff.

Staff were aware of the children with food allergies and intolerances, and these were considered when planning the menu to reduce the risk of children having access to known allergens. The service was 'nut free' and requested that food brought from home does not contain nuts.

Infant formula was reconstituted at home and poured into individual bottles then transported to the service and put in the fridge until required.

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:

The premises was secure. There was a sign-in book for the building at the front reception desk and staff at reception to meet visitors to the building. This prevented any unauthorised access to the building. Entry to the service was past reception, through a secured door with keypad access. This was the point of entry and exit for the service. The grounds were fully enclosed to prevent entry or exit from the outdoor areas.

The service had a sun safe policy which was being implemented on the day of inspection. The children wore sun hats when outdoors and staff encouraged the children to stay in the shaded areas of the playgrounds. Sunscreen was available for each child and was applied regularly throughout the day. Staff ensured that the children were well hydrated and encouraged them to drink water regularly. The children spent long periods of time outdoors where the shaded areas provided comfortable spaces to play in. Water play was encouraged as it helped to keep the children cool and comfortable in warm weather. Fridges were available in each room for the storage of perishable foods.

Infection control:

The service had an infection prevention and control policy. Staff and children were observed washing their hands at appropriate times during the day such as after using the toilet, wearing gloves, nappy changing or messy play and before eating. Staff wore gloves for nappy changing.

There were sinks in each room and in the sanitary accommodation areas to facilitate hand washing.

The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Sunscreen and nappy creams were for individual use and labelled with the name of the child on whom they were to be used. Cots were spaced at least 50cm apart as recommended for infection control.

Cot mattresses were waterproof or had removable waterproof covers making them easy to clean.

Highchairs seats were covered with wipe-clean, padded material that was easy to clean after each use.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Administration of medication:

The service had a policy on the administration of medication. Signed parental consent was sought prior to any medication being given to a child while attending the service. Individual care plans were available in respect of children with specific medical needs such as allergic reactions.

Safe sleep:

The service had a safe sleep policy. Children were monitored while they slept, physical checks were carried out every 10 minutes and recorded on individual sleep records.

Fire safety:

Fire exits were found to be unobstructed on the day of inspection.
There were fire evacuation procedures displayed in a prominent area within the service.
Firefighting equipment was present in the service.

Outings:

The service had an outings policy. Risk assessments were conducted as appropriate. Children were taken on walking outings to the local library which was close to the service. The babies were taken on walking outings in the local area in double and single buggies available in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

1. There was a screw jutting out of the timber casing of the sink unit in the upstairs sanitary accommodation area, posing a risk of injury to a child.

Infection control:

2. The hot water taps had been removed from several of the hand-washing sinks throughout the service, three of which were in sanitary accommodation areas. It is acknowledged that this action was carried out by the maintenance staff as a temporary safety precaution until the hot water supply could be adequately regulated to ensure hot water temperatures did not exceed 43°C. However, this meant that the children did not have access to hot water for hygienic hand washing before exiting two of the sanitary accommodation areas.

3. The wooden casing covering the pipes in the sanitary accommodation area upstairs, opposite the senior pre-school room, was not sealed making it difficult to clean effectively.

4. The lid was missing from the pedal bin in the upstairs sanitary accommodation area this posed a risk of cross contamination.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Screw has been removed from the sink unit.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Infection control:

2. Plumbers are resolving the issue of the water temperature and replacing the taps.
3. The wooden casing covering the pipes in the upstairs toilet has since been removed and replaced by plastic covering that can be cleaned and is more hygienic.
4. New pedal bin has replaced the old bin.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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) There were staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service.

Part VI - Safety

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 firefighting 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) There was a written record of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service, most recently on 23rd of June 2026.
- (b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. A fire register was maintained for these records and all records associated with fire safety in the service. The firefighting equipment had an annual service in June 2026. The smoke alarm system was also last serviced in June 2026.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall in each room.