

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021WW001
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Name of Service:	LMNO Childcare Ltd
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Address of Service:	9A Purcell Lane, Rear Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A98 Y3K6
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Name of Registered Provider:	Eileen Gill, Kieran McWilliams
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	02/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	17
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke
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

This full day care service was first established in 2021. It is located in the town centre of Bray Co. Wicklow. The premises consists of a single storey building which has been modified to accommodate the childcare service. A second building has been modified as a sessional room but is not yet opened. There are two care rooms that are opened up into one space, a sanitary area, staff office and kitchen area. There is a large enclosed outdoor space to the front of the premises.

The service is registered to provide care and education to children from two years to six years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday from 07:30 to 18:00 hrs and operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) service, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

One of the registered providers works in the service and employs three additional adults. The registered provider and two adults were present on the day of inspection.

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.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under
Regulation 9 (1), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (3), (4) Management and recruitment
Regulation 10 Policies Procedures of Pre-school service
Regulation 11 (1), (3) Staffing levels.
Regulation 16 (1)(k) Record in relation to pre-school service
Regulation 19 (1)(b), Health, welfare and development of child
Regulation 22 Food and Drink
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child General Safety, Infection Control, Medication and Fire Safety.
Regulation 24 Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance.
However, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under
Regulation 25 (2) First Aid
Regulation 29 Premises.
These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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*
- (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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The registered provider was present in the pre-school and there was a named staff member who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

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The registered provider was on the premises at the time of arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

There was a clear management structure in the pre-school service that identified the lines of authority and accountability.

(2)(a)(b)

Written references were available in respect of four adults.

(c)

The required three-year Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of four adults.

(d)

International police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the State for more than six months since turning 18 years of age.

(3)

The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4)

Four adults held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

There was a robust Healthy Eating policy available in the service and this was reflected in the food and drinks served to the children on the day of inspection.

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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)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)
The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were three adults present to work directly with 17 children on the day of inspection.

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:

(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.

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Compliance Information

(1)(k)

On the day of inspection 10 Accident and Incident records were reviewed and all forms were completed correctly.

(3)

These above records were available in the service for review on the day of inspection by an authorised person.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. Children were given the opportunity for free play during the morning, and children's participation was encouraged in all activities throughout the day. All children had an opportunity to play outdoors during their day, having direct access to the secured garden area to the front of the premises.

The transition between one activity and the next was smooth and unhurried, aided by the language used by the adults to the children. Positive reinforcement of children's behaviour contributed to a pleasant environment for the children in the service. One to one attention was given to a child if it was required.

The lunch time was relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience for children, all children sat on low level chairs at a table, and conversation was encouraged.

Children were addressed by their name and were given plenty of time to eat their food. All food was provided by the service. There was an ample supply of food for the children at lunch time. Children were asked if they would like additional food and it was available to them.

The service had a cosy area with rugs and cushions for children to use should they require it during their day.

Children's parents are spoken to on an individual basis at collection time. Parents are encouraged to make direct contact with the service, should they have any concerns or issues.

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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

On the day of inspection, the children attending the service were given yogurt and apples for their snack and chicken nuggets, noodles and mixed vegetables for their lunch. Fresh water was available to the children throughout their day and milk was given to drink in the morning time. Extra food was available should any child become hungry outside the normal snack and lunch times.

Any special dietary requirements of children, with allergies or for religious reasons were catered for by the staff. A three-week menu was available in the service.

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 main door to the pre-school service was securely locked on arrival of the inspector to the service.
- All toys examined were in good condition and equipment was suitable, age appropriate and in good working order.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children.
- Documentary evidence was available of daily risk assessments being carried out in the service.
- All cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The emergency exit routes from the pre-school room were free from obstruction and clearly marked.
- All children in the service had sunscreen applied and wore hats when going outdoors in the warm weather.
- The outdoor area was suitable, safe and secure.

Infection Control:

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- The service had access to a separate sanitary area, with toilets, warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed before meals.
- A foot pedal bin was available in the sanitary area for the safe disposal of used paper towels.
- Table cleaning was observed before and after snack time as was hand washing by adults and children before snacks and after using the toilet.

Administration of Medication:

While medication was not administered on the day of inspection, the correct procedure to record the dispensing of medication was available for review.

Fire Safety:

On the day of inspection there were records available to demonstrate that the smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in the service, were both serviced in January 2026.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. On the day of inspection, the lid on the bin in the care area was broken and children were seen using their hands to open it.
2. On the day of inspection, it was observed that the disability access toilet was being used for storage of fancy-dress clothes, wellington boots and numerous other items that the children use in the service. Non sanitary items should not be stored in the sanitary for infection control purposes.
3. The shelf covering the radiator in the main care room was chipped and in need of repainting and could not be cleaned properly for infection control purposes.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The bin lid has been fixed and the children have been reminded to use the foot pedal rather than touch the bin and staff will monitor this more closely in the future. Children reminded to use foot pedals rather than touch bin lids as they were pulling the removeable lid off. Staff to be on guard for this in the future.
2. The disability toilet is no longer being used as storage and the staff have been reminded not to use this in the future. Staff informed not to use the disability toilet for storage. Management to check regularly.
3. The radiator cover has been sanded and painted allowing for cleaning. Staff to inform management of any wear and tear of radiator covers etc going forward so that they can be repaired promptly.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of a fixed bin lid, a cleared disability area and the repainted radiator cover were submitted with the CAPA response.

Summary Comment

The above actions have addressed the non-compliances found on the day of inspection in relation to Regulation 23 Infection Control points 1-3 and will be reviewed on next inspection.

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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)
The registered provider ensured that all children attending the pre-school service were checked in and out on the service register.

(3)(a)(i-iv)

The registered provider ensured that no other person other than the agreed list of people has access to the pre-school.

(b)

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The registered provider had a record in writing in the form of a visitors' book of all such persons who accessed the pre-school.

(4)

The registered provider ensured that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) was retained for a period of one year from the date to which it related to.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

Non-Compliance Information

While inspecting the first aid box in the service, it was noted that it was not adequately equipped. There were no cloth slings, sterile water, sterile gauze or a pair of medical scissors available in the first aid box.

These are all essential and necessary items for basic first aid.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)

The first aid box has been refilled and we have ordered more sterile gauze and sterile water as well as plasters and sterile wipes to have on hand to refill in the future.

A staff member has been designated to check the first aid box on a monthly basis to ensure it is not missing anything.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)

Photographic evidence of a fully stocked First Aid kit was submitted with the CAPA response.

Summary Comment

The above actions have addressed the non-compliance found on the day of inspection in relation to Regulation 25 (2) First Aid and will be reviewed on next inspection.

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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-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

(e)
On the day of inspection, it was observed that two taps in the sanitary area and one tap in the care room were in visible need of repair as they were loose and not fitting correctly into the sinks that they were attached too. All equipment in the sanitary area should be correctly fitted and in full working order.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(e)
The taps have been screwed in again and are no longer loose. Staff to inform management of any maintenance required so that items can be repaired promptly

Supporting documentation submitted

(e)
Photographic evidence of mended taps and taps with water running were submitted with the CAPA response.

Summary Comment

The above actions have addressed the non-compliance found on the day of inspection in relation to Regulation 29 (e) and will be reviewed on next inspection.