

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC014
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Name of Service:	All Aboard, Carrigtwohill Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	Station Road, Carrigtwohill, Co Cork
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Eircode:	T45 NP82
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Name of Registered Provider:	Orla Hayes
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	03/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	52	PM	26
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23 X440
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast & N O' Donoghue
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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

All Aboard Carrigtwohill Childcare Centre is registered to cater for children aged 0 to 6 years, between the hours of 7.30am and 6.00pm daily. This includes children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is facilitated from 9.00am to 12.00pm, over 38 weeks annually. The setting is open 51 weeks of the year.

The full day care service is situated in a residential area of Carrigtwohill, in Co Cork and operates from two adjacent buildings. The main, two-storey premises consists of three operational care rooms, namely the Creche, which is located on the ground floor and Montessori 1 and 2, which are on the first floor. In addition, this building includes a reception area, a sleep room, a kitchen, sanitary facilities and a staff room. Montessori 3 and the afterschool room operate from the adjacent, single storey building, where adjoining sanitary facilities are also available. A spacious outdoor play environment is provided for the early years children and a second outdoor play space is allocated for use by the school age children.

Staffing

Fourteen staff members, including the registered provider, are employed at the setting and 12 of these adults are involved in the direct care of the early years children. One adult works solely with school age children and the cook also works in the registered school age service.

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.

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, manager, 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.

(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 service had a designated person in charge and deputy person in charge on the premises on the day of inspection. In the event that the person, or deputy person in charge were not on the premises, a named person able to deputise was available.
- (b) A person in charge or a named deputy person in charge was on the premises at all times, during the operation of the service.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge, it was determined that one new staff member had been employed since the previous inspection. This new staff member worked directly with the children and their staff file was open to inspection.
- (a) Of the two references required, one validated reference was available from a past employer.
- (b) Of the two references required, one validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all adults with direct access to children. 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 deemed to be required for the new adult working in the service.
- (3) The registered provider had ensured to carry out all checks and validations mentioned in (9)(2), prior to the adult commencing in the service.

(4) One adult previously employed to work with school age children had been employed to work with the early years children. This staff member's qualification was open to inspection. The two adults working directly with children held relevant qualifications in early childhood care and education, at a minimum of level 5 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance.

(2) The required adult to child ratios were observed in all care rooms.

- During the morning, there were 10 adults working with the 52 children in attendance, who were aged 10 months to 4 ½ years.
- There were 26 children, aged 10 months to 4 ½ years present in the afternoon, with 6 adults available. The registered provider was also on site.

(8)

(a) Review of the staff roster and observation on the day of inspection demonstrated that the service was consistently operated with at least two adults present.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 10 children's enrolment forms were assessed and were noted to include the required information under parts (a) (c) (d) (e) and (f) of this regulation.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service was not detailed on six of the child records.
- (g) One of the records did not include the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
- (h) Information regarding the child's immunisation status was unavailable on 5 of the 10 records reviewed. This was also found at the previous inspection on 17 June 2025.
- (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment in the event of an emergency, was not provided on two of the child records. Non-compliance in relation to part (i) was also noted at the previous inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
- (b) The written reply stated that the children’s records have been updated. Going forward, start dates will be completed on the child's first day.
- (g) All children’s records have been updated with name and phone number of their medical practitioner.
- (h) The forms have been updated with the immunisation status.
- (i) Parents have been asked to complete the relevant parental consent on the form. As a preventive measure, it will be ensured that registration forms are fully completed, before a child commences at the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

A screen shot of a start date and a photograph of one of the immunisation records.

Summary Comment

Based on the statements and partial evidence submitted, the response from the registered provider is accepted in meeting the requirements of the regulation.

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:*
- (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;*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (i) Details of staff start times, finish times and lunch cover were available from 5 January to 6 February 2026.
- (j) A review of the medication administered on the day of the inspection was completed. All relevant details were available on the record.

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)

Physical and material environment:

- The older care rooms were furnished with suitably sized tables and chairs for the children's use.
- Display furniture was predominantly low-set and easily accessible to the children.
- Wall hangings in the care rooms reflected the children who attended the setting. For example, birthday displays were visible, along with family photographs, children's artwork and examples of recent learning.
- The selection of materials and activities available across the setting promoted a variety of play and learning experiences. For example, children were observed:
 - Colouring, drawing and using tweezers, which encouraged creativity and fine motor development.
 - Engaging in construction play with connectable shapes, building blocks and magnet tiles.
 - Participating in imaginary play in the home corner, using play food and utensils.
- Further opportunities to enhance practical life skills, fine motor skills, creativity and language development were provided through the availability of Montessori materials, jigsaws, colour matching games, art and craft materials and books.
- The outdoor play area consisted of astro grass, play tunnels, climbing frames and outdoor play equipment. The outdoor area provided opportunities for gross motor play such as running, jumping and using scooters and bikes.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

- The children’s need for rest and relaxation was met through the provision of a cosy area within each of the four care rooms. These spaces were furnished with floor mats, cushions and book racks.
- The service had a designated sleep room, which was equipped with six cots and safety mattresses.
- Four stackable beds were available for use by children aged over 2 years, as needed.

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 entrance door was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the childcare facility.
- The service’s designated outdoor play space was enclosed by a combination of fencing and secured gates.
- Water at the wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43⁰C.
- There were no blind cords present in the Creche room.
- The staircase was adequately lit, fitted with suitable handrails and was in good condition.

Infection control:

- Adequate handwashing and drying facilities were available in the children’s sanitary facilities, including warm running water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels. The children were noted to wash their hands before the mid-morning snack.

- Either waterproof cot mattresses, or waterproof mattress protectors were in use, in the designated sleep room.
- Disposable gloves and aprons were available and utilised during nappy changing procedures.
- Some of the windows were open for natural air ventilation.

Administration of medication:

- Staff were aware of the correct procedures for administering medication, in the event that it was required.

Safe sleep:

- Regular sleep checks were conducted by staff every 10 minutes. The position, breathing pattern and colour of sleeping children were recorded.
- The temperature of the sleep room, where children over 12 months old were sleeping, was measured at 21.6°C.
- The children sleeping were observed to be using cellular blankets.

Fire safety:

- Fire exit doors were maintained free from obstruction.
- Fire extinguishers were safely wall mounted.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection control:

The following observed practices increased the risk of cross infection:

1. After using one of the toilets in the upstairs sanitary facility, one of the children did not wash their hands and was not reminded to do so by an adult.
2. The staff in the Creche room did not conduct regular handwashing of their hands between each nappy change. This was at variance to the infection control policy, which stated that staff and children's hands would be washed after each nappy change.

Administration of medication:

3. The expiry date had passed on two of the medications that were held in respect of two of the children. This posed a risk that expired medication, which may be unsafe to use, could be administered to a child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection control:

1. The written reply outlined that staff have been reminded to ensure that children wash their hands after using the toilet. As a preventive measure, a staff member will oversee children going to the toilet and will remind children to wash their hands.
2. Staff have been reminded to remove their gloves and to wash their hands after each nappy change, in accordance with the nappy changing policy. Staff have read and understand the nappy changing policy.

Administration of medication:

3. All expiry dates on medications have been checked and are in date. Staff will check expiry dates regularly and will dispose of any expired medication.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection control:

The statements from the registered provider are accepted in relation to points 1. and 2.

Administration of medication:

Photographic evidence was forwarded for point 3.

Summary Comment

The response submitted by the registered provider is accepted in meeting the regulatory requirements.

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) Records of First Aid Response (FAR) certification were in place for three of the adults and the staff roster indicated that at least one of these adults was always on the premises during operational hours.

(2)

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- (a) The service had three first aid kits, which were maintained out of the children's reach.
- (b) The first aid supplies were readily available at all times.