

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC017
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Name of Service:	An Cliabhán Community Creche
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Address of Service:	Lower Friar's Walk, Ballyphehane, Cork, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T12 TH68
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Name of Registered Provider:	Catherine Kelly
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/01/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien
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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

An Cliabhan Community Creche is a long-established community based early years service which offer a sessional and part time service to children aged one to six years of age. The service operates from 8:30am to 12:30pm and 1pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday. The service is in an urban residential area of Cork City. The service operates from one care room in the Ballyphehane/Togher Community Development Project. The service has a fully enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are five staff members employed in the service. On the day of inspection, three staff members were caring directly for the children. A chef was also present.

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. 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, 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
- (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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named deputy in the service.
 - (b) The designated person in charge and named deputy were on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Five staff were identified as working in the service and all five files were assessed.
- (a) Four of the ten references were available from a past employer and were validated.

(b) Six of the ten references available were from a reputable source and were validated.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for all five staff. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived outside a state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Four of the staff members who worked directly with the children held a relevant qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education from Level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. One staff member who was employed as a chef did not require qualifications and were supervised at all times while in contact with the children.

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) There were adequate staff available to care for the children in attendance in the service.

(2) On arrival to the morning session, there were thirteen children aged between one year and nine months to two years and eight months being cared for by three staff members.

In the afternoon session, there were ten children aged between one year and ten months to three years being cared for by three staff members, therefore, the minimum adult to child ratio was being adhered to.

(8) (a) The staff roster was reviewed and indicated that two staff members were on the premises at all times while the service was in operation.

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 twelve children's records were assessed and reviewed.

(a) All records assessed contained the names and dates of birth for the children

(b) Six of the twelve records assessed contained the date on which each child first attended the service.

(c) All records assessed had the capacity for the service to record the date that each child ceased attending the service.

(d) All records assessed had a record of the names and contact numbers of parents and guardians if required.

- (e) All records assessed had a record of those authorised to collect each child.
- (f) All records assessed had a record of any illness, disability, or allergies each child may have.
- (g) All records assessed had a record of the registered medical practitioner for each child.
- (h) Two of the twelve records assessed had a record of immunisations, if any, received by each child.
- (i) All records assessed had a record of written parental consent for the service to provide emergency medical treatment if required in the event of a medical emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) Six of the twelve records assessed did not contain the date on which each child first attended the service.
- (h) Ten of the twelve records assessed did not contain a record of immunisations, if any, received by each child.

Not having children's records complete may hinder the care and safety of children in the service if this information is needed for care provision.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has reviewed the registration forms for all children attending the service and completed the forms with the required information as outlined from (a) to (i).

- (b) Start dates of when children first attended the service has been completed on the registration forms.
- (h) Immunisation record forms have been given to parents and guardians to complete. A form is available to parents and guardians to complete if their child has not received any immunisations.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documented evidence of the updated registration form has been submitted to the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed and has met the regulatory requirements.

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;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

The following records were accessed:

- (i) Details of a staff roster was available.
- (k) The accident and incident book were reviewed, and six records were assessed and were all completed correctly with the relevant information.

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 sanitary area was located next to the care room. Staff were observed supporting children with toileting and handwashing. Staff were observed during nappy changing and each child was cared for in a kind and respectful manner.
- Food and drinks were prepared by the onsite chef in the service. The staff supported the children with feeding if required and sat with the children during mealtimes.
- The children were observed playing individually and in small groups within the care room. Staff were available to support the children in their play and overall development.
- The children had an opportunity for outdoor play during their time in the service.

- There was a quiet corner available for the children to sit and rest if needed. This area allowed for the children to relax and take some time away from the larger group if needed.
- Individual water beakers were easily accessible to the children throughout the day.

Supporting Relationships:

- The staff were observed having respectful interactions with the children. The staff supported the children's communication and language skills through these interactions ensuring they were at the child's level.
- Staff comforted children when upset. It was observed that the children and staff had formed good relationships with each other.
- The staff were aware of the individual needs of the children and ensured they communicated and worked in partnership with each child's parents and guardians.
- A family tree was displayed in the care room which supported the children's sense of identity and belonging.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The care room was a bright and spacious area for the children to play.
- Soft matting, cushions and blankets were available in the quiet area which made the space cozy for the children to use.
- Low level chairs and tables were available for the children to sit at mealtimes and during tabletop activities.
- A home corner with dress up clothes, a kitchen and dolls provided a space for the children to partake in imaginary play.
- A tray with rice and poring equipment was available to support children's sensory development and staff said that they found it supported the children's emotional development also.
- The outdoor area had a sand pit for children to explore.

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:

- All blind cords and windows were secured and made safe.
- The main entrances and the outdoor area were secured and prevented children from exiting unsupervised and any unauthorised access to the service.
- Toys and play equipment were seen to be in good condition.
- Internal doors were fitted with pinch and crush protectors to prevent injury to the children.

Infection Control:

- Warm water, soap and paper towels were available to the children and staff for handwashing in the handbasins in the sanitary area and care room. Water temperatures in the hand basins ranged from 35.6°C to 36.5°C.
- Children were observed handwashing following toileting and nappy changes, after outdoor play and before meals.
- There were lidded and pedal operated waste bins in the care room and sanitary areas to prevent the risk of cross infection.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed.

Outing:

- Staff stated the services outings policy was followed on each outing with the children.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A radiator cover in the care room was broken and had a sharp exposed timber edge which posed a safety risk to children.
2. A storage facility in the outdoor area was easily accessible to the children. This posed a safety risk to the children having access to unsafe areas.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A carpenter has removed the sharp timber edges on the radiator cover and replaced with a round edge. Risk assessments will be carried out regularly to identify any broken or damaged equipment.
2. A bolt lock has been placed on the door of the storage facility. Risk assessments will be carried out daily to ensure the door is secured. It has been communicated to the staff to ensure the door is locked when using the outdoor area.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence of the repaired radiator cover was submitted to the inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence of the lock placed on the storage facility in the outdoor area was submitted to the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed and has met 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) The staff were suitably trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training and was available at all times to the children if required.

(2) (a) & (b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box that was available if required.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had adequately insured the service for the number of children attending the service. The certificate was available for review which commenced on the 28 March 2024 and expired on 27 March 2025