

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC086
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Carrigtwohill Pre-School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Main Street, Carrigtwohill, Co Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T45 FW61
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Kevin Brosnan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	05/02/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	29	PM	18
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23 X440
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D Prendergast & N O' Donoghue
<b>Title:</b>	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

### Description of service

Carrigtwohill Pre-School is a community based service, that has been in operation since 2012. It is registered to provide full day, part time and sessional care, to children aged 2 to 6 years. However, it currently caters for children from the age of 2 years and 8 months. Four daily sessional services are provided, in conjunction with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme; 8.30am to 11.30am, 8.45am to 11.45am and two ECCE sessions from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. The setting is open each Monday to Friday, from 7.00am to 6.00pm. A registered school age service is also offered.

Situated on the main street in the town of Carrigtwohill, in Co Cork, the service operates from within a family resource centre. The premises consists of a three storey, semi-detached building. A reception area, two operational care rooms, sanitary facilities, a kitchen and a store room are located on the ground floor. The first floor includes a third early years care room, a school age room, a multi-purpose room and additional children's sanitary facilities. An office, a second school age room and a 'cosy' room are provided on the second floor. Since the previous inspection on 9 February 2023, three additional toilets and two wash hand basins have also been added to this floor. The children have the use of a designated outdoor play space beside the building.

### Staffing

There are 16 adults in total attached to the early years service, including the registered provider, who is not based at the premises. Eleven of the adults work directly with the early years children. This includes two staff members employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) support scheme. The other four adults, who are not involved in the direct care of the early years children work in the following roles: project co-ordinator, two Community Employment (CE) participants, employed as receptionists and one adult who works with school age children only.

### 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 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) The service had a named person in charge and a deputy person in charge had also been appointed.
  - (b) The person in charge was present to facilitate the duration of the inspection process. During discussion, following review of the staff roster, the person in charge confirmed that they or the deputy were available during the service's operational hours.
- (2) Recruitment records in relation to the 16 adults attached to the setting were assessed for compliance.
- (a) There were 32 written and validated references required. Of these, 22 had been provided by past employers.
  - (b) Ten of the references and corresponding validations were from sources other than past employers.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 16 staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) Documentary evidence indicated that 3 staff members had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6

consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years and the required police vetting was maintained for 2 of these adults.

- (4) Evidence of attainment of a minimum level 5 award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications, was available for 10 of the adults. Qualifications were not required for the registered provider, the project co-ordinator, the two receptionists, or the adult who worked only with school age children.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) The required police vetting was unavailable for one staff member, who had lived outside the State for longer than six consecutive months, as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was unavailable to demonstrate that one of the adults, who was employed to work directly with the children, had attained a minimum level 5 award in Early Childhood Care and Education, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

The written reply stated that the police vetting was applied for on 5 February 2025. The service has received confirmation that the vetting has been processed and posted. Going forward, during the interview process, all candidates will be asked to provide police vetting if they have lived outside Ireland for more than 6 months while over the age of 18. Employment will not commence until all documentation is on file for staff members.

(4)

The employee has applied to QQI to obtain the final cert, as only components were available. Going forward, no new staff member will be permitted to commence employment until final certs have been provided.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(d) A copy of the police vetting.

(4) A record of awards in relation to the adult's qualification.

### Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted are accepted in meeting the regulatory requirements.

### 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) Taking into consideration the age range of the children present in the service and the duration of their stay, the adult to child ratios were maintained in line with the required ratios, as follows:

Morning:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
Darling Ducks (3 – 4 years)	12	2
Tiny Tigers (3 – 4 ½ years)	7	2
Cheeky Chimps (2 ½ – 5 years)	10	2

Afternoon:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
Tiny Tigers (3 – 4 years)	8	1

Cheeky Chimps (2 ½ – 4 ½ years)	10	2
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The Darling Ducks room was occupied by school age children in the afternoon.

(8)

(a) The service was operated with at least two adults present at all times. This was observed in practice and was demonstrated through review of the staff roster.

### 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)

##### Programme of activities:

- The inspectors were informed that the service implemented a child-led, play based curriculum.
- Individual learning journals had been created for the children and were noted to reflect their interests, art work and themed learning, such as science week. These journals were readily accessible to the children, which provided them with an opportunity to look back on their experiences, as was observed in the Darling Ducks room.
- During discussion, a staff member advised that the short and medium term curriculum plans displayed in the care rooms were used to organise daily and weekly activities with the children. Current themes included *dinosaurs*, *transformers* and *my home*. Staff members explained that the decision to explore these topics came from observing and listening to the children, for example, during circle time. Various activities, such as art and crafts, story time and singing, were then facilitated to further enhance the children's learning in relation to each topic. This was in keeping with the written curriculum plans available.

- During free play, the children were observed to engage in a range of activities, which included drawing, construction and imaginary play. A language rich environment was also evident, with conversation encouraged throughout the daily routine.

### 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 entrance door to the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. Additional security was in place immediately prior to entering the two care rooms on the ground floor; the doors were controlled by electronic keypads.
- The outdoor play area was secured by a combination of walls and fence panels.
- A shock absorbing surface was available in the outdoor play space. This reduced the risk of injury to a child.
- Appropriate safety clips were in use to secure blind cords.
- The service's supply of cleaning products were stored in areas that were inaccessible to children.
- There were no cables or trailing flexes within reach of the children.
- A visibility strip was in place on the glass panel door, which led to the outdoor play space. This reduced the risk of a child sustaining a collision injury.
- Televisions were securely wall mounted.
- First aid kits were stored in locations that were inaccessible to children.

##### Infection control:

- Liquid soap, paper towel dispensers and foot pedal operated bins were provided at the wash hand basins. Handwashing by the children was observed to be carried out after using the toilet facilities.
- Refrigerators were available and used to store the children's lunch bags. This reduced the risk of bacterial growth in perishable foods.

- Individually allocated wall hook storage was in use to store the children's coats and bags.
- The care rooms appeared clean and well maintained. Staff were noted to sanitise table tops.
- Open windows in the care rooms provided a supply of fresh air throughout the day.

### Administration of medication:

- The administration of medication to a child was not observed on the day of the inspection.

### Safe sleep:

- None of the children present were noted to sleep over the duration of the inspection.

### Fire safety:

- Fire exits were free from any obstructions that may delay a timely exit in the event of a fire.

## Non-Compliance Information

### Infection control:

1. The children who attended the lunch club in the Darling Ducks room did not wash their hands, after returning from outdoor play time, which occurred immediately before lunch was served. This increased the risk of cross infection. It was noted that the adults handed children wipes to clean their hands and a staff member stated that this was the usual practice. However, some of the children had already begun eating before they received a wipe. The use of warm running water and liquid soap is most effective to ensure hygienic handwashing.
2. Two of the wash hand basins were not equipped with warm running water as follows:
  - In the staff toilet facility adjoining the Tiny Tigers room, the water temperature at the wash hand basin was recorded at 10.2°C.
  - The water temperature at the wash hand basin in the new child toilet facility, adjoining the same care room, was recorded at 9.9°C.

Cold water temperatures may impede effective handwashing. The issue of cold water temperatures at two different wash hand basins was found at the previous inspection on 9 February 2023. The CAPA response at the time stated that a plumber had undertaken work on the hot water system and that daily water temperature checks would be carried out, to ensure that the required temperature was maintained. However, cold water temperatures remained an issue.

### Administration of medication:

3. The expiry date had passed on one of the medications that were held in respect of a child. 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 stated that from the day of the inspection, an extra preschool staff member has been assisting with the daily hand washing process, prior to the children having their lunch. As a preventive measure, extra help is available to assist with the infection control process, to ensure best practice at all times.
2. A plumber attended the service and has replaced the mixer taps. Water temperatures will be checked daily by all room leaders, to ensure the maintenance of the required temperatures.

#### Administration of medication:

3. Following the inspection, the person in charge confirmed in writing that the medication was replaced and is now stored in a locked cupboard in the care room. As a preventive measure, staff will ensure that all expiry dates on medication are checked.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted in relation to each of the corrective actions.

### Summary Comment

The corrective actions implemented have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23.

## 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) FAR certification was available for 10 of the adults who worked at the service.

(2)

(a) The service had three first aid boxes, which were safely stored in each of the care rooms.

(b) The first aid kits were available at all times, should they be required.

## Part VI - Safety

### 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) Written records of completed monthly fire drills were displayed in the care rooms. It was noted that the most recent fire drills had been undertaken as follows:
- Tiny Tigers room on 30 January 2025
  - Cheeky Chimps room on 23 January 2025
  - Darling Ducks room on 28 January 2025.
- (b) A record which contained details regarding the number and type of firefighting equipment was available. According to the servicing documentation, the firefighting equipment was last checked in October 2024 and the wired smoke alarm was tested on 31 January 2025.
- (4) The service's fire evacuation procedures were visible in the main entrance area.