

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC141
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Name of Service:	Eden Childcare
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Address of Service:	Knockbarry, Buttevant, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P51 CD96
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Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan O'Connor
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	03/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	33
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	134 Bank Place, Mallow, Co Cork.
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Collins & M Carney
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Eden Childcare Early Years Limited, is a privately run service registered to provide a full day care, part time and sessional care for children aged from 0-6 years and is registered to provide school aged care.

This early childhood care and education facility is based in Knockbarry, Buttevant in North Cork.

The service operates from 7:30 AM and 5.30 PM Monday to Friday.

The service operates from a wing of the registered providers home with two additional care and education rooms outside comprising in total of five care rooms. There is a spacious outdoor playground available to the children and ample off-road parking to facilitate the safe drop off and collection of the children.

Staffing

The registered provider works as part of the service along with 13 staff, not all of whom were present on the day of inspection.

The registered provider also employs an ancillary staff member to prepare the meals for the children. A contractor was also on-site facilitating drama classes with some children.

The staff working in the service providing care to the pre-school children held a recognised qualification in early childhood care and education.

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 inspections 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, 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

9. (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,

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

(a) the policies, procedures

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The registered provider worked directly with the children and was the person in charge. In addition, the registered provider had appointed a manager and a deputy.

(b)

On review of the staff roster it was evidenced that the registered provider, manager, or deputy were on the premises for the duration of service operation.

(2)(a)

There was a total of 16 adults attached to the service and each of their personal files were reviewed. The following information was found:

There were 25 written past employer references with the appropriate records of validation attached.

(b)

There were 7 written references from sources that the registered provider considered to be reputable on file. Records of validation were attached.

(c)

There were 16 up to date Garda vetting disclosures on file for each staff member.

(d)

Police vetting was available for the 3 adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)
Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training were on file for 14 staff members, ranging from Level 5 to Level 8.

(7)(a)
Individual staff files informed that training had taken place in relation to policies and procedures of the service. It was reported by the registered provider that specific Regulations were discussed at staff meetings to ensure staff familiarisation and reinforcement of practices and skills.

Additional evidence of some staff training included, fire safety training, first aid training, food safety training, dignity at work, safeguarding courses and mini-me yoga.

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

(2) The adult child ratios were correct throughout the service on the day of inspection:

- The baby room had three children in attendance one under 1 year and two over 1 year in attendance and were being cared for by one adult, break cover was provided.
- The wobbler room (Primrose) one adult was caring for five children aged 1-2 years, break cover was provided.
- The toddler room (Daisey) 10 children were in attendance aged between 2-3 years, these children were being cared for by two adults, break cover was provided.
- Junior pre-school (Poppy) 16 children were in attendance being cared for by three adults during the morning session, the staff were able to provide cover for each other's breaks.
- Senior pre-school room (Sunflower), nine children were being cared for by two adults in the morning and when the sessional service finished and children left, the staff were able to provide cover for breaks for each other.

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)

Of the 43 children present on the day of the inspection a sample of 20 children's registration forms were examined. They included a cross section of the age groups.

The following sections of the Regulation (a) to (i) were found to be compliant.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*

- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- The following records were available which pertained to the service –
- (a) The name, position, qualifications, and experience of the staff members.
 - (b) Type of service and age profile of children for which the service is registered.
 - (c) Details of the adult child ratio and the adults signed in daily.
 - (d) The type of care programme provided.
 - (e) The facilities available
 - (f) The opening hours and fees.
 - (g) The policies and procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10.
 - (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis.
 - (i) Staff rosters on a daily basis.
 - (j) Details of any medication administered to a pre-school child were recorded on the services care application.
 - (k) A record of the accidents and incidents involving a child that attends the service were recorded on the services care application.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The registered provider made available a booklet which provided parents and guardians with the above information in relation to Regulation 16 (a) to (g).

It was reported that the service policies were available in hard copy and digitally for prospective parents and guardians to view.

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 children in the service were supported with eating and drinking as needed. The children in the Baby room were allowed to self-feed if appropriate and were assisted with feeding when required. The children sat on low chairs and were seated with their peers. The children in the Wobbler (Primrose) room were supported by staff at snack and dinner time with a staff member assisting with feeding where needed. The children were all provided with bibs to protect their clothes. The children in the remaining rooms were provided with assistance when required. Crockery and cutlery were available to all and the cutlery provided was suited to each age group.
- Children had their nappies changed as needed and, on a routine basis, and records of all changes were maintained on the Care Application used by the service. Parents/guardians had access to all entries on this application for their child on a continuous basis.
- Children were allowed to move freely and no restriction on the movement of any child was observed. The babies were observed to use the indoor and dedicated outdoor space with assistance if required.

- The service supported child led sleep in the younger children’s care rooms, the babies and wobblers (Primrose) were put to sleep when they indicated the need for same. The children in the Daisey (Toddlers) and Poppy (Junior pre-school) rooms were all placed to sleep after dinner time with both of these rooms converting to sleep rooms where stackable beds and cots were arranged.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The service was using an online Care Application where each parent/guardian could log into as they wished. It was observed on inspection that notifications to parents were sent by this system. Each child was logged on the system. Parents/guardians were also spoken to at drop off and collection.
- The care rooms were staffed by the same adults daily with some staff providing service wide assistance. The children were comfortable with their careers and were noted to seek support and assistance from them and knew their names indicating the same staff were available to the children daily.
- The children that required additional assistance (AIM) to support them in their pre-school education had care plans completed by the staff recording the progress each child was making.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- Each room had appropriate furniture to suit the ages of children attending.
- The soft matting and pull to stand equipment in the baby room was suitable for the children being cared for in this care room . The outdoor space adjacent to the baby room was covered with artificial grass and had resources suitable for children of this age group inclusive of buggies, push toys, slide and see saw all to promote gross motor development.
- The Wobbler (Primrose) room had a large rest area developed and children were observed to rest and relax in this area or play in the comfortable space. There were adequate chairs for the low height table for the children to carry out tabletop activities. Aprons and bibs were available to protect clothing and arts and crafts equipment was accessible. The children were observed to have books read and the staff were observed to read to the children.
- The Toddler (Daisy) room was laid out with areas of interest each to stimulate the children in their self-chosen play. The resources were accessible on low level shelving. Staff were observed to sit with the children in the rest area and tell stories and get the children involved in the story telling. A selection of equipment such as dress up clothes, home corners and construction areas were available to promote imaginary play.

- The children in the Junior Pre-school (Poppy) room were observed to play in small and large groups and for a large portion of the day played outside. The children were observed to climb, ride on balance bikes and run and skip around. Resources within the care room promoted fine motor movements and books to promote speech and language development and dress up clothes to promote imaginary play.
- The children in the Senior Pre-school (Sunflower) had a room layout suitable for the older age group of children attending the room. The children attending this care room also played outside for extensive periods of time with resources to promote physical activities and the staff were observed to be kicking football and running with the children enhancing the atmosphere and sense of fun for the children.
- The shelving in all the rooms was accessible to the children.

Programme Of Activities

- A programme of activities was followed in the care rooms. This set out the activities for the day and a schedule of activities was known to the children.
- Transitions were managed with giving the children adequate time to move from their activities to snack time or outdoor play time.

Outdoor area

- There were two outdoor areas, one for the older children with larger play activities and one for the smaller children with age-appropriate toys and resources. The ground cover on the outdoor areas was artificial grass and concrete on the larger area and in the smaller area specifically for the younger children was artificial grass.
- The children from all care rooms used the outdoor space throughout the day. They were clothed appropriately and staff encouraged this play.

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-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (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)
- (a) Each playroom was suitable for the ages and developmental stages of the children attending and had suitable resources.
 - (b) There were adequate sleep facilities for the children attending; there were eight cots in the sleep room between the Babies and Wobbler room. Beds and cots were set up in the Toddler room for the scheduled sleep time after dinner. There were three cots and eight sleep mats set up to cater for all children who required sleep at that time.
- Sleep was facilitated in the Junior pre-school room on sleep mats set up in the care room in a quiet corner. On the day of inspection, the children that did not require sleep went outside to play with the children remaining on after the sessional service in the senior pre-school room.

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

- Snacks for the children attending were provided by the parents/guardians for morning and afternoon snack. The main meal was provided by the service and on the day of inspection consisted of ham and carrots and broccoli with mashed potatoes and gravy. This same meal was served to the younger children but pureed or finely chopped as required.
- The food observed to have been eaten on the day of the inspection complied with healthy eating guidelines. Drinks of water were available to all children.

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 external door in the main building and the side gate allowing access to the care rooms outside were secured with electromagnetic locks when the inspector arrived at the service. These measures ensured that unauthorised adults could not gain access to the service and the children could not leave the service unaccompanied.
- The windows were secured to the front of the building ensuring children could not get out through the windows to an unsecured area.
- There was one highchair that had a harness attached to ensure the safety of the children and the low chairs used were suitable for use with young children.
- The storage facilitates were out of reach of the children and no mops, buckets or cleaning materials were within reach of the children.
- No child was noted to have amber teething beads.
- All doors and door handles were in working order.
- A visibility strip was on the glass door in the baby room ensuring no child collided with the glass.

Infection Control:

- The cleaning schedules were followed for each room.
- There was liquid hand soap, hot water, paper towels and lidded bins at each sink.
- The bins used for the disposal of soiled nappies did not require touching by hand and were foot pedal operated and these were emptied twice daily as indicated by one of the staff.
- A cleaning schedule was reviewed and this was completed daily.
- The tables were cleaned and disinfected prior to and after snack and dinner time and after messy play.
- The coats and bags were stored off the floor.
- It was observed that the staff followed a good routine during nappy changing, disposable aprons, and gloves were changed after each nappy change. The changing mat was disinfected and the hands of both staff and children were washed following the nappy change. These practices minimise contamination and cross infection.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep checks were completed on all sleeping children and these were recorded on the child's care application shared with parents.
- The lighting in the sleep room was appropriate to allow the staff to easily check each sleeping child.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exits were not blocked.
- The firefighting equipment was easily accessible to the staff.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. One child was not checked into Sunshine room when the sign in records were reviewed (11.25am). Not having accurate sign in records may hinder the safe evacuation of all children from the service in the event of a fire where the numbers of children being accounted for may not be accurate.
2. A small grey and red buggy in the Babies outdoor area was broken and sharp edges were protruding. This broken toy could potentially cause and injury to a child who may fall against it while playing outside.

Infection Control:

3. Two cots in the sleep room were 32cm and 42cm apart respectively, this poses a cross infection risk to the children who may have a respiratory illness and impedes the safe checking of the children.
4. The sink in the Poppy (Junior pre-school) room was missing a seal around the countertop exposing a porous wood surface beneath. These porous surfaces are difficult to clean and can be a source of contamination and cross infection.

Administration of Medication:

- The procedures to follow when medication is required by a child was not followed and prescription medication was administered to a child and this was recorded on the children's care application however a signed request from a parent/guardian was not obtained prior to the medication being administered. Not having a written record of the name, dose, route, storage and times for administration may lead to medication errors.

Safe Sleep:

- A record was reviewed where a child aged 19 months had fallen from their cot, a standard cot, appropriate care appeared to have been given to the child, however no risk assessment form was completed and the child was returned to the cot. Not adequately risk assessing the safety of the child may lead to a further incident where they climb and fall from their cot causing an injury to the child.
- One of the cots in the sleep room was placed near an electrical cable that was attached to the CD player. Having access to a cable such as this may pose as a strangulation hazard.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- All children will be signed in on arrival and this has been discussed with staff at the staff meeting.
- All broken toys and equipment have been removed and staff are to check for these daily and remove when required.

Infection Control:

- Staff have been reminded to ensure the cots in the sleep room at the recommended minimum distance of 50 cm apart.
- The wood counter under the sink in the Poppy room has been resealed.

Administration of Medication:

- The procedures to be followed in the event of medication being required have been reviewed and best practice in medication administration has been discussed with all staff.

Safe Sleep:

- A risk assessment will be completed where a child is at risk or displays the ability to climb out of a cot.
- The electrical cable has been removed with music now piped into the sleep room.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Minutes of the staff meeting has been received indicating that children are to be signed in on arrival has been received.
2. The minutes of the staff meeting have been received which indicate that staff have been advised to removed broken toys immediately.

Infection Control:

3. Minutes of the staff meeting have been received which indicate that the staff must ensure the cots in the sleep room are at a sufficient distance apart.
4. The staff meeting minutes indicate that the counter has been resealed.

Administration of Medication:

5. The administration of medication has been discussed at a staff meeting and the minutes of same have been received.

Safe Sleep:

6. A comprehensive risk assessment has been received.
7. The minutes of the staff meeting indicate that the cables have been removed.

Summary Comment

Following receipt of the corrective and preventive actions as outlines were carried out by the registered provider the requirements for this regulation have been met.

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 informed that each staff member had up to date first aid training. There were 6 members of staff with certification to evidence that they had completed first aid responder training (FAR) in October 2022.

(2)(a) & (b)

Each care room had their own first aid boxes.

The staff office stored generous supplies of additional first aid requisites.

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 fire fighting 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)

The registered provider made available a compilation of fire records detailing the number, type and maintenance record.

A logbook detailed that monthly fire drills had been conducted; the last recorded drill was in April 2023.

(b) Records informed that the fire safety alarms and smoke alarms had been serviced on the 22 June 2022. The portable firefighting equipment had been service in August 2022.

(4) Fire Evacuation plans were stored in the fire records logbook and displayed in each care room. They clearly provided the visual route to leave the service in the event of a fire.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The insurance certificate was available for review and the service was insured to operate as a full day care service and caring for 54 children at any one time. The insurance was in date until 27.03.2024.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

(d) a serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner whether in a hospital or otherwise;

Non-Compliance Information

(d) A child attending the service required medical attention following an event that occurred in the service. The incident was not notified to Tusla.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d) Staff have been reminded that all incidents that require medical attention must be notified to Tusla within 3 days.

Supporting documentation submitted

(d) The minutes of the staff meeting have been received indicating all staff are aware of the notification of incidents requirements.

Summary Comment

Following receipt of the corrective and preventive actions the requirements for this regulation have been met.