

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC192
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Kangakare Childcare Ltd
-------------------------	-------------------------

Address of Service:	The Square, Mount Oval Village, Rochestown, Co. Cork
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	T12 V20C
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Ronan
-------------------------------------	---------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
----------------------	---------------------

Date of Inspection:	20/04/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	73	PM	67
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Administration Office, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurranabraher, Cork. T23X440.
Inspection undertaken by:	D Cotter
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Kangakare Childcare Ltd. is a privately owned service, which provides an option of part time or full day care to children aged 0 to 6 years. Registered daily opening hours are from 7.30am to 6.00pm and the service is open 51 weeks of the year, offering a play based curriculum. This early years service is located in an urban area of Rochestown in Co. Cork and is provided from the purpose-built ground floor of an apartment block. There are five operational care rooms, each with either adjoining or adjacent sanitary facilities and there are two designated sleep rooms. The premises also includes staff sanitary facilities, an office, a staff room, a catering kitchen and a utility room. Two outdoor play environments are available for the children's use.

Staffing

There are twenty four staff associated with this service, twenty of whom were present on the day of inspection. This includes the registered provider, who is not service based.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 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 registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge as well as the deputy person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection. The roster for the service demonstrated that at least one of these people were always on site.

2.

There were twenty-four staff attached to the service and twenty-four staff files were assessed.

(a) Forty two of the forty-eight references were available from a past employer and had been validated.

(b) Six of the forty-eight references were available and validated from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all for staff. 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 required and available for twelve members of staff as they had resided outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

4.

Twenty-three staff members 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. The registered provider was not service based and did not need to hold a qualification.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) The registered provider has ensured that an adequate number of staff are working directly with the children at all times.

(2) The adult to child ratios met the requirements of the regulation. The rooms were in operation as follows:

Morning :

Room name	Type of Service	Age Range	Number of children present	Number of adults required	Number of adults present
Baby Room	Full Day Care	0.11-4 years	6	2	3
Fledglings	Full Day Care	1.9-2.6 years	11	2	3
Toddlers	Full Day Care	2-3 years	17	3	3
Preschool 1	Full Day Care	19	2.9-4 years	3	3
Preschool 2	Full Day Care	20	4-5 years	3	3

Afternoon:

Room name	Type of Service	Age Range	Number of children present	Number of adults required	Number of adults present
Baby Room	Full Day Care	0.11-4 years	6	2	3

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fledglings	Full Day Care	1.9-2.6 years	11	2	3
Toddlers	Full Day Care	2-3 years	17	3	3
Preschool 1	Full Day Care	2.9-4 years	19	3	3
Preschool 2	Full Day Care	4-5 years	14	2	2

8.

The registered provider has ensured that there was a minimum of two staff at all times on the premises. This was evidenced through the staff roster and discussion with staff on the day.

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;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider has ensured that a record is kept in relation to

(a) the name, position, qualification and experience of each person associated with the service was available for review on the day of inspection.

(i) a roster is kept daily which includes each staff members start, finish and break time.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) Basic Needs:

- The staff working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours and supported children to find positive solutions when they experienced challenge in sharing play equipment.
- Children had access to water at all times throughout the inspection. Water bottles were stored at child height in each care room.
- Children's toileting needs were attended to promptly and staff assisted children when necessary.
- In the Fledgeling room, the inspector observed nappy changing time and the staff used the time to interact in a friendly and positive way with the children.
- Staff responded to children in low tones and communicated with them respectfully throughout the inspection.
- It was evident through observation on the day of inspection that children's voices were listened to, and children were able to communicate their needs to attentive adults. For example; when a child from the baby room woke from their sleep and was still tired, a staff member sat and comforted the infant until they were ready to return to play.
- Further evidence of listening to the voice of the child was evident in the short, medium, and long-term plans on display outside the care rooms.
- Mealtimes were spread throughout the day, and children were served with a hot meal in the middle of the day.
- Children were observed to eat healthy and nutritious food for their mid-afternoon snack. Examples included, fruit, crackers and rice cakes.
- An extra supply of nonperishable food was observed to be stored in the care rooms should any child require extra portions.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- A rest area was provided in each care room should any child need to rest.
- Children's non verbal cues for tiredness were responded to quickly and efficiently. For example, it was observed in the baby room that one of the infants was rubbing their eyes and laying their head down on the mat, a staff member was heard to say "I think it's time for your nap" before bringing the infant to the bedroom.
- The rooms were well laid out to encourage the children to move freely between the interest areas.
- Children were observed to play in the outdoor areas on the day of inspection.
- There were opportunities for siblings to interact during the day, for example, the inspector observed an older child from another group at play with their younger sibling while other children were sleeping.

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 had been secured, and this ensured no unauthorised entry to the service.
- All play equipment appeared to be in a clean state and of good repair.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children.
- The outdoor areas had been securely fenced to prevent unauthorised entry to or from the area.
- The children's bags and coats were stored safely off the floor.
- Fever reducing medication were stored in their original containers, marked with the child's name.
- Low level doors were fitted with visibility strips.
- Blind cords in each care room had been secured.
- Highchairs in the baby room were in a good condition and had been fitted with safety harnesses.

Infection Control:

- Perishable food was refrigerated.
- Foot operated pedal bins were in operation throughout the service.
- Windows had been opened to aid natural ventilation.
- Tables were sanitized before the children had their snack.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Nappies, wipes and barrier creams had been individually labelled to decrease the risk of cross infection.
- Staff wore disposable gloves and aprons while changing nappies.
- A cleaning schedule was in place in each area of the service.

Administration of Medication:

- On the day of inspection staff reported that no child needed regular medication.
- A supply of fever reducing medications were stored by the service, in its original container out of reach of children.
- Emergency medication, along with a detailed care plan was accessible to adults within the Preschool 1.

Safe Sleep:

- Cots were spaced the required 50cm apart.
- The air temperature in the sleep rooms was measured at 20.1°C and 20.7°C.
- Cots were fitted with waterproof mattress protectors.
- Staff were observed to physically check on sleeping children every ten minutes.
- Staff were observed to record the position breathing and colour of sleeping children on an electronic application.
- Cots were maintained in a proper state of repair.
- Sleep equipment provided aligns with sleep guidance for children under two years.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were kept free and unobstructed.
- Wall tethered fire extinguishers were available in the care rooms.
- A fire evacuation plan was visible in each room.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Water temperatures in Preschool 2 were above the required temperature. Water temperatures of 45.4°C were recorded at one of the taps in the Pre-school 2 sanitary area, while water temperatures at the low level sink within Preschool 2 were recorded at 47°C. It is acknowledged that when it was brought to the attention of the person in charge, the thermostat was turned down which reduced the temperature of the water. The water temperatures within this room were not thermostatically controlled at 43°C, which increased the risk of a scald injury.

2. Electrical cables were not secured out of reach of children in the Preschool 2 room. The inspector observed that the flex from the television, along with the flex attached to fairy lights was within reach of children and could pose a risk of objects being pulled down onto children from a height.

3. The exit in Preschool 2 had not been made safe. The inspector observed that the thumb lock was within reach of children and the door opened out onto a main road. This puts children at risk of unsupervised exit from the service onto a road.

Infection Control:

4. Hand washing practices were not in line with best practice. For example;

- In the Fledgling room staff were observed not to wash their own hands, or the hands of the children after nappy changes.
- In the Toddler room, staff were observed to not wash the hands of the children when they returned from outdoor play or after cleaning the noses of the children.

Not washing hands after toileting or when returning from outdoor play may result in cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

In her written response the registered provider has stated:

1. Staff have been reminded to check the water temperatures daily and record the temperature. If temperatures are elevated, the person in charge should be informed.
2. The flexes have been made safe and are no longer within reach of children.
3. An alarm has been purchased and will be fitted to the door to reduce the risk of unauthorised exit.

Infection Control:

4. Staff have attended a team meeting and were reminded of the importance of correct hand-washing procedures.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

In support of her written response, the registered provider submitted the following:

- Video evidence of water temperatures.
- A template for the checking of water temperatures.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- A photograph of secured flexes.
- Receipts for the purchase of a door alarm.

Infection Control:

The registered providers statement as been accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed. The door alarm will be checked at next inspection.

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 registered provider has ensured that there are six adults trained in first aid response (FAR) and that at least one of these staff member is always accessible to the children. This was evidenced through the staff roster.
2.
(a)(b) The registered provider has ensured that each care room is equipped with a suitably stocked first aid box which was easily accessible to staff should it be needed by the children at all times. A larger supply of first aid items was also available in the office.