

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC217
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Liscarroll Community Care CLG
-------------------------	-------------------------------

Address of Service:	National School Grounds, Liscarroll, Mallow, Co. Cork
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	P51 DA33
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Maura McCarthy
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	17/04/2026
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	5	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Second Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Collins
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

Liscarroll Community Childcare CLG, operates as a sessional service which is located in the primary school in the village of Liscarroll in North Cork.

There were five children present on the day of inspection with the service operating from 08.45- 11.45 daily, Monday – Friday for 38 weeks of the year.

A sessional service is provided to children aged between 2 years and 4 months and 5 years and 11 months and facilitates the Early Childhood Care and Education programme.

The service has a separate secured entrance to the school. The premises is single storey and is a single room of the primary school. There is one playroom with adjoining children's and adult toilet facilities.

There is a covered outdoor play area that is immediately adjacent to the playroom and an open play area to the side of the care room.

Staffing

There were two adults present on the day of inspection and of these both were working directly with the children, inclusive of the person in charge. Only two adults are currently recorded as working or potentially working in the service.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 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*

(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,*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived and remained on the premises for the duration of the session. The deputy person in charge was also onsite throughout the inspection.
- (b) The roster indicated that the person in charge was onsite during the operation of the service.
- (2) Two staff worked in the service, and both named staff had their files assessed on the last inspection and were complete. The requirement to review the Garda Vetting was necessary.
- (c) The Garda Vetting disclosures for both staff were assessed, and both disclosures were obtained within the last three years in keeping with the regulatory notice issued by the Inspectorate ensuring Garda Vetting is completed every three years.

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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there were adequate staff available for the children throughout the operation of the service.
- (3) There were two staff available and caring for the five children attending on the day of inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) There were seven children enrolled in the service of which five children were attending the service on the day of the inspection. Five enrolment records of the children in attendance on the day of inspection were reviewed.
- (a) –(i) Four of the five enrolment forms were complete and up with date with all details as outlined with parents/guardians and the registered providers signatures recorded on the enrolment forms for all children.
- (3) (c) The records as outlined above were available and open for inspection by the early years inspector

Non-Compliance Information

1. (h) One of the five enrolment forms reviewed was not complete with no record of immunisations received by the child. The lack of this information being available to the staff of the service may hinder appropriate

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

exclusion practices from the service in the event of a communicable illness being diagnosed within the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (h) The incomplete record for one child has been updated, and the staff will ensure all forms are completed and all information has been obtained before children commence in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (h) The assurances received from the registered provider on the corrective and preventive action form is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation as assessed has been met.

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 service promoted healthy eating, and the children ate their snack together. The children were supported when eating with a staff member sitting with them. A staff member observed uncut grapes and cut them prior to a child eating them ensuring the wellbeing of the child.
- Cutlery was provided if required for snack time.
- No child in the service required nappy changing on the day of inspection. Children were able to go to the toilet independently.
- Any child who required assistance with hand washing was supported with same.
- Sleep was not provided for in the service and children were not observed to ask for a rest and did not require to opt out of activities during the session.
- Children were allowed to choose their activities inclusive of art activities, tabletop activities and activities that allowed for imaginary play using dress up clothe. The staff moved about to support the children but allowed them to choose and play with whom and what they wished.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The children's mobility was not hindered at any time, and the children could move about freely.

Supporting Relationships Around Children

- The children were noted to be familiar with the adults who worked in the service daily and the children were comfortable with them and sought out their assistance as required.
- Staff supported the children with their emotions and had books on 'When things die', this supported a child who spoke about the death of a family member.
- The adults were relaxed when speaking with the children and there were no raised voices noted during the inspection.
- The staff appeared to work well together.
- Staff operated in partnership with parents as demonstrated with the conversation at drop off and collection.

Physical And Material Environment:

- The indoor environment consisted of one care room. The room had child height tables and chairs where the children were observed to eat and do their arts and crafts and other tabletop activities. There were open shelving units that were accessible to the children and at their height which allowed the children to be independent in their activities.
- There was a supply of varied equipment such as arts and crafts, Montessori equipment and shape sorters as an example for fine motor development, Imaginary games with kitchens and a selection of dolls with cots, buggies and prams.
- At the corner of the room the children had access to the soft seating area where there was access to books. No child was observed to sit or rest in this area throughout the inspection.
- The service demonstrated a language rich environment with stories being told, rhymes being recited and children being spoken to in small groups and individually.

The Outdoor Environment:

The outdoor environment consisted of two areas. There was a sheltered area outside the glass doors, and this area was open and used throughout the morning providing a seamless indoor to outdoor environment.

The open area consisted of a concrete area and a grass covered area. The children rode bicycles, pushed toys and ran around this area.

The toys for use outside were stored in a locked shed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

There was evidence of planning both indoors and outside with vegetables being grown on the windowsill inside and flowers and bulbs growing outside.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

There was adequate and suitable equipment inside.

There were blocks and bricks of different sized to promote fine motor development

There was areas for imaginary play inclusive of home areas with a kitchen and kitchen equipment. A dolls area with highchairs, bunkbeds and wardrobes

Books in a library area and on a table with easy access for the children.

Boxes were identified for ease of access to the children of farm and zoo animals.

The equipment outside included tables and chairs, sand and water tables. A kitchen area. Bicycles with stabilisers, prams and a playhouse.

All equipment assessed was suitable for the age range of children using them.

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 service was secured by a gate to the front which was closed after each child arrived and checked before the children went into the outside area. The covered outside area was also secured by a high secured door.
- The main door into the service was secured with an appropriate lock. This prevented unauthorised exit by any of the children to the yard and prevented unauthorised access to the children by any adult.
- The windows were at a height that could not be reached by the children.
- There was no staircase in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- All toys and equipment observed on the day of inspection were in good condition and free from any pinch or crush points.
- The electric flexes observed were in good condition and out of reach of the children.
- The storage facilities were inaccessible to the children with cleaning products for the tables stored on a high shelf in the care room and other cleaning equipment stored in a press in the adult toilet.
- There were no hot drinks consumed in the service.
- There was no kettle available in the service.

Infection Control:

- The children were observed to wash their hands after playing with sand and water, after playing outside, before snack time and after using the toilet.
- The paper towels used following hand washing were disposed of in lidded bins that were pedal operated.
- There was hot water accessible in all of the sinks that was thermostatically controlled. The hot water in the children's toilets was recorded at 29.2°C. in the adult toilets at 31.3°C. There was liquid hand soap and paper towels available at all sinks.
- The tables where the children were eating were cleaned with appropriate disinfectant prior to the children having their snack.
- School bags were stored off the ground on a table preventing contamination.

Administration of Medication:

- No administration of medication was observed on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Children do not sleep in the service.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit doors were not blocked at any time.
- The fire extinguishers were safely tethered to the wall.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The snacks provided to the service were not stored in the fridge following arrival and before snack time allowing for the potential growth of bacteria on the perishable items and causing illness.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Perishable items contained in children's snacks as provided by parents will be refrigerated and staff will check and ensure this is done.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. The assurances received on the corrective and preventive action form are accepted as evidence that all perishable items will be refrigerated.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation as assessed has been met and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

Compliance Information

- (1) The children attending the service were all signed in on arrival by a staff and were signed out as they left.

Non-Compliance Information

- (3) (a) A record of visitors who attend the service was not maintained as outlined above in (i) –(iv). This could potentially lead to a risk in the event of an emergency evacuation of the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (3) (a) A visitor's log has been created and is available with the sign in records. All staff are aware that this needs to be completed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

(3) (a) The assurances received are accepted as proof that this action has been carried out.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation as assessed has been met and will be assessed on the next inspection.