

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC217
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Liscarroll Community Care CLG
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	National School Grounds, Liscarroll, Mallow, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	P51 DA33
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Maura McCarthy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	01/10/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	5	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	13 Market Square, Mallow, Co Cork.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Collins
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Liscarroll Community Childcare operates as a sessional service located on the primary school building 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 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 entrance to the school and is single storey and a single room of the national school that has adjoining adult and children’s toilet facilities. There is both an open and covered enclosed outdoor play area.

### 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. There are three staff named to potentially work 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

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,*
- (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 named deputy person in charge. The deputy person in charge was on the premises on the morning of inspection.
- (b) During the operation of the service the deputy person in charge was on the premises as confirmed by the staff roster.
- (2) There were three adults named as working directly with the children in the service.  
For the three adults working in the service all three staff files were inspected.
- (a) Of the six references required four were available from past employers, two of these references were validated as required.
- (b) Two references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Three Garda vetting declarations were available on file. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (4) Two of the three staff working directly with the children were appropriately qualified at level 6 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework. The third adult was working towards gaining their ECEC qualification.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) / (b) A total of four references were not validated, not appropriately validating references may allow for staff who are unsuitable to work with children have access to them.
- (d) Two police vetting declarations were required and neither were available on file. Not appropriately vetting staff prior to them commencing to work with children may allow an adult who may be inappropriate have access to the children.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a)/ (b) The registered provider has submitted that all references have been validated and all references will be validated prior to any staff member commencing within the service.

(d) The staff member who required police vetting is no longer working in the service until such time as police vetting is available for them.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(2) (a) /(b) Proof of validation of the four references has been received.

The recruitment policy has been received and outlines the requirements for staff vetting prior to them commencing in the service.

### Summary Comment

Following the corrective and preventive action process the requirements for this Regulation have been met.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### **Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service**

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

### Compliance Information

The services policies, procedures and statements were detailed, the following policies were assessed on the day of inspection and contained the required details:

- The infection control policy.
- The healthy eating policy.

### 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 to the five children attending on the day of inspection. The staff member who did not hold a qualification was working in a supernumerary capacity but supporting the deputy person in charge.

### 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 eight children enrolled in the service of which five children were attending the service on the day of the inspection. All eight enrolment forms were available. The five enrolment records for the children in attendance on the day of inspection were reviewed.

(a) – (h) The five enrolment forms were complete and up with date with all details as required and with parents/guardians and the person in charges 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) (i) On all five enrolment forms where the form sought permission for emergency medical treatment, the forms were not fully completed or were crossed out as not applicable by the staff. Not ensuring that permission for emergency medical treatment is received and acknowledged as required may hinder the appropriate treatment being given to a child in the event of an emergency.

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

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

(1) (i) All eight enrolment forms have been updated to ensure the consent for emergency medical treatment was signed by parents and acknowledged by staff.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

(1) (i) All eight updated enrolment forms have been received and the appropriate consent has been received from parents/guardians.

### Summary Comment

The requirements for this Regulation have been met and will be assessed on the next inspection.

### 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 this was evidenced in the snacks provided by parents/guardians. The children ate their snack together and were supported by a staff member.
- Children had access to their drinks of water throughout the session and were encouraged to drink at snack time.
- No child in the service required nappy changing on the day of inspection.
- Any child who required assistance with hand washing was supported with same.
- Sleep was not provided for in the service and children who chose to opt out and rest could be facilitated to do so in the quiet area at the back corner of the care room, children were observed to use this area and chat and play with their friends.
- Children were allowed to choose their activities inclusive of play dough, tabletop activities and floor-based activities of playing with garages and dinosaurs while staff moved around supporting the children but allowing them to choose and play with whom and what they wished.
- The children's mobility was not hindered at any time and the children could move about freely.

### Supporting Relationships Around Children

- The children were observed to play together sharing activities and playing in small groups.
- The children were observed to be comfortable with the adults that were working with them and were observed to seek their assistance when needed.
- 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 were observed to speak with parents at collection time.

### Physical And Material Environment:

- The indoor environment consisted of one large care room. There were child height tables and chairs where the children were observed to sit comfortably 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 and the children were observed to self-select their play equipment. There was a supply of varied equipment such as arts and crafts for fine motor development, imaginary games with garages and kitchens imaginary play at story time when stories were being read to the children.
- At the corner of the room the children had access to the quieter area and to books.
- The service demonstrated a language rich environment with stories being told, books being read and good interactions being noted between the staff and the children. The children were supported with their language development and were spoken to on a one-to-one basis as required.
- The materials and equipment were easily accessible to the children and the artwork previously completed by the children was displayed in the service.

### The Outdoor Environment:

- The outdoor environment was developed at the side and at the front of the premises. The covered area was at the side of the premises and this area contained sand tables, a table with leaves and sticks for nature play, a kitchen area and the wellington boots for the children was stored in this area.
- The area to the front was covered in concrete and an area of grass, the children were observed to use ride on toys and play with a large playhouse and large blocks as they built walls in this area.
- The outdoor area was used on the day of inspection following snack time and prior to the children going home.

### 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 high gate at the side which was used for entry/exit and although the parents could access this the children were prevented from exiting unsupervised.
- The main door into the service was secured with an appropriate thumb turn lock. This prevented unauthorised exit by any of the children and prevented unauthorised access to the service by any adult.
- The windows were at a height that could not be reached by the children.
- There was no staircase in the service.
- All toys and equipment observed on the day of inspection were in good condition and free from any pinch or crush points.
- There was no heavy furniture that was not secured at a height that could tip over on to the children.
- The electric flexes observed were in good condition and out of reach of the children.
- The storage facilities were inaccessible to the children in a locked press under the sink in the care room.
- The hot drinks consumed in the service were done so with regard to the safety of the children.
- The kettle following use was stored away in the press under the sink.

##### Infection Control:

- The children were observed to wash their hands as appropriate after messy play, when coming in from outside, after using the toilet and before snack time.
- 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 23.2°C. There was liquid hand soap and paper towels available at all sinks.
- The perishable items contained in children's snacks were stored in the fridge following arrival and before snack time preventing the growth of bacteria on perishable items.
- 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 beside the main door preventing contamination.

### Administration of Medication:

- No medication was administered in the service on the day of inspection.

### Safe Sleep:

- No child sleeps in the service.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire exit door was unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- The firefighting equipment was safely tethered to the wall.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

1. There was no cleaning schedule available. Not ensuring there is a schedule to follow available may indicate that the service was not cleaned adequately.
2. There was exposed chipboard on the shelving units below the couch area at the back of the care room. Having exposed porous wood may allow for the growth of bacteria and pose a risk of contamination and infection to the pre-school children.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

1. A cleaning schedule is available and the registered provider has stated that the staff in the setting carry out a thorough cleaning routine that will be documented.
2. The exposed chipboard has been sealed and a plan to replace furniture is being planned.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

1. A copy of the cleaning schedules have been received.
2. A photograph of the exposed chipboard painted and sealed has been received.

### Summary Comment

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) There were two staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) who were immediately available to the children should the need arise.
- (2) (a) There was a first aid box stored in the care room and was adequately stocked.  
(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school at all times.

## 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.*

*(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*

*(c) an authorised person.*

*(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 fire drills that took place in the service were all recorded and the last fire drill took place on the 23.09.2024 with evidence that drills take place monthly observed.  
(b) The firefighting equipment (Fire extinguishers) were last serviced in December 2023. The smoke detection system was last serviced on 11.04.2024.

- (2) (c) The records as referred to above were available for assessment by the early years inspector on the day of inspection.
- (4) The procedure to follow in the event of a fire was displayed near the exit door.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service was insured as a sessional service. The insurance was for 22 pre-school children. The expiry date of the insurance was 27.03.2025.