

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC377
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Name of Service:	St Anne's Day Nursery CLG
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Address of Service:	Sharman Crawford Street, Cork, Co Cork
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Eircode:	T12 WF77
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kathryn O'Riordan
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	07/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	37	PM	32
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23 X440
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast
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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

St Anne's Day Nursery CLG is a play based, full day care service. It is registered to accommodate children aged 0 to 6 years and also offers school age childcare. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme is facilitated from 8.45am to 11.45am and from 9.00am to 12.00pm, each Monday to Friday, over a 38 week annual period.

The setting is open 48 weeks of the year, with daily opening hours from 8.15am to 5.30pm.

The childcare facility is located in the centre of Cork city, on the grounds of St Marie's of the Isle Primary school. It is provided from a purposely adapted, single storey building and consists of four operational care rooms.

Children's sanitary facilities are available adjoining or adjacent to the care rooms and the premises also includes a sleep room, a kitchen/dining room and an office. The children have access to a partially sheltered, outdoor play space on site.

Staffing

At the time of inspection, there were 23 adults attached to the setting, including the registered provider, who was not service based. In addition, five students were undertaking work placements. The cook and the maintenance worker were not involved in the direct care of the children.

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, deputy, 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) There was a designated person in charge assigned to the service, along with a named person who could deputise, as required.
- (b) The person in charge was present at the childcare facility, upon the inspector's unannounced arrival and facilitated the duration of the inspection. The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy was consistently available at the service, during operational hours.
- (2) Recruitment records in respect of the 23 adults and 5 students attached to the service were reviewed and the following was noted:
- (a) Thirty-four of the 56 required written and validated references were from past employers.
- (b) Twenty-two of the 56 required written and suitably validated references were from sources other than previous employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 28 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting records were available on file for the 11 adults, who had lived outside the State for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18.
- (4) The records provided demonstrated that 16 of the adults, who worked directly with the children held a recognised award in childcare, with copies of the qualifications available. Qualifications were not required in respect of the registered provider, two Community Employment (CE) participants, the cook, the maintenance worker, or the five students.

Non-Compliance Information

(4) Written evidence was not available to demonstrate that two staff members, who worked directly with the children, held 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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The written response from the person in charge outlined that applications were submitted to the DCDE, in order to obtain letters of Qualification Recognition for the adults. As a preventive measure, students who have obtained letters from their colleges, outlining their qualifications, will also have their qualifications recognised by the DCDE, before commencing employment at the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Letters of Qualification Recognition in respect of both adults were forwarded.

Summary Comment

The corrective action implemented has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 9.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) At all times during the inspection period, an adequate number of adults were observed to be available to the children.

(2) The adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation. In the morning, there were 37 children, aged 1 ½ to 5 years, in attendance across the 4 care rooms. Nine qualified adults were working

directly with these children. In the afternoon, 7 qualified adults were available to the 32 children present, who were aged 1 ½ to 5 years. The CE participants, students and two staff for whom evidence of a minimum level 5 award was unavailable, were not included when assessing the adult child ratios. The person in charge and the deputy were also available, if required.

(8)

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

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic needs:

- Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack were observed to be facilitated over the course of the inspection.
- During these mealtimes, staff members were attentive to the children's needs and offered assistance as necessary. The younger children were provided with bibs and a relaxed, unhurried environment was evident.
- After lunch, children from the Ladybirds room were appropriately supported to clean their faces and hands.
- Tissue boxes were stored within the children's reach, which encouraged independence when attending to personal hygiene.
- Drinking water was available to the children, should they become thirsty at any stage. For example, in the Buzzy Bees room, a jug of water and cups were stored on a trolley and in the Butterflies room, the children's reusable water bottles were accessible on a shelf.

- The inspector was informed by staff that nappy changing was carried out at designated daily intervals and as the need arose. Older children were encouraged to use the sanitary facilities independently, with supervision and verbal reminders provided as needed.
- The adults were noted to demonstrate kindness and sensitivity towards the children, during nappy changing routines, as they playfully chatted to the children.
- Children who wished to relax within their care rooms had access to suitably furnished rest areas. After lunch, scheduled rest periods were observed in the Ladybird room and in the Butterflies room. The sleep room was also in use at this time. The person in charge advised that the children typically followed these routine nap times and that sleep could also be accommodated outside of the scheduled periods, according to individual needs.
- Within the care rooms, adequate space was available to accommodate a range of activities, such as messy play, imaginary play and construction activities. The outdoor area was also well utilised on the day of the inspection, which allowed for more active play and exploration.

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

- Within the care rooms, low set display units were in place to display interest items at the children’s eye level.
- The materials on offer provided opportunities to enhance the children’s learning and developmental needs. Age appropriate equipment included play kitchens, dress up clothes, books, jigsaws, a variety of hand held vehicles, construction toys, shape sorters and a range of art and craft materials.
- Outdoors, the children were observed to engage with a range of equipment such as ride on toys, large waffle shapes, a water tray and slides. Additional resources included a sand tray with digging toys, a wooden water wall, a wall mounted activity board and seating areas.

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

- The service had an onsite cook, who prepared the children’s snacks. Lunch meals were supplied by a registered catering company and were reheated as required, in the service kitchen. A corresponding four week menu plan was displayed and included a variety of suitably nutritious meals.
- On the day of inspection, the children had buttered toast, cheese and a variety of fruit, for breakfast. The hot lunch meal consisted of sausages with onion gravy and mashed potatoes. Children were also offered yogurts after they had finished their lunch. In the afternoon, a snack of sausage rolls, mini rice cakes and fruit was provided. Water was available as a drink at mealtimes.
- The person in charge informed the inspector that some of the children had a dietary requirement in common. During discussion, it was stated that the catering company had been notified in relation to this requirement. It was also confirmed that the cook monitored ingredient labels.
- The inspector was advised that that if a child became hungry outside of the allocated mealtimes, they would be offered an additional snack.

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:

- Entry via the main door was controlled by a buzzer/intercom system. This minimised the risk of unauthorised persons gaining access to the service.
- Safe storage of cleaning agents was ensured.
- Low-level cupboards that contained potentially harmful items had either been secured, or were fitted with restrictive opening devices.
- Suitable safety clips were installed to secure blind cords.
- First aid boxes were maintained out of the children’s reach.

Infection control:

- Liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins were available at the wash hand basins. The children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet facilities and following messy play activities.
- Within the nappy changing room, the children's toiletries were appropriately stored and labelled.
- Wall hook storage was provided for the children's coats and bags.
- Tables were observed to be sanitised following messy play.
- The care rooms were supplied with fresh air, through open windows.

Administration of medication:

- At the time of inspection, no medication was observed to be administered.
- The medication held for one of the children was safety stored, had been clearly labelled with the child's name and was in-date.

Safe sleep:

- Frequent checks of sleeping children had been documented and were available for review. At ten-minute intervals, children's breathing, colour and position were physically monitored, as per the requirement for safe sleep practice.
- The air temperature of the sleep room was recorded at 19°C, while occupied by sleeping children.
- While in use to accommodate rest periods, the respective air temperatures in the Ladybird and Butterflies rooms were recorded at 21.9°C and 20.3°C. Both of these temperatures fell within the recommended temperature range of 18°C to 22°C, for safe sleep practice, in relation to children aged over 12 months.

Fire safety:

- Fire exit doors were maintained clear and free from obstruction.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection control:

During the evening snack in the kitchen/dining room, children were observed to eat foods such as chopped fruit and rice cakes, directly from the table, as crockery was not provided. This practice was also observed in the Buzzy Bees care room, during their evening snack time. Eating food directly from table surfaces posed a risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

In her written reply, the person in charge stated that plates and bowls will be provided for the afternoon snack times. As a preventive measure, more plates have been purchased to ensure that there will be extras available for the afternoon snack.

Supporting documentation submitted

The statement from the person in charge is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

Based on the statement from the person in charge, regulatory compliance is determined to have been met.