

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC443
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Name of Service:	Cur Le Chéile, Togher Family Centre
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Address of Service:	Togher Girls National School, Togher, Cork City, Co Cork
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Eircode:	T12 T996
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Name of Registered Provider:	Niamh Sheridan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	13 Market Square Mallow Cork P51DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	B Fraher
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).

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Description of service

Cur le Chéile, Togher Family Centre is a sessional service which operates from a classroom in Togher Girls National School. The service is registered to accommodate children aged from 2 to 6 years of age and is open Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is facilitated between the hours of 9:00 and 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:00. It consists of an office area, a large classroom, two children's toilets and adult toilet with a nappy changing area within the school. Children have access to an outdoor play area.

Staffing

There is a total of six adults employed by the service which includes the registered provider. Two adults were employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) and one adult was employed under the community employment (CE) scheme. The registered provider is not service based. On the day of inspection five of these adults were working directly with 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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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 children, person in charge and staff 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*

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(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 designated person in charge on the day of inspection and a named deputy, who could deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge and the deputy were on duty at the service when the inspectors arrived. The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy were on duty at all times, during the hours of operation.

(2) The recruitment records in relation to seven adults attached to the service were the subject of the inspection.

(a) Of the 14 required references, 6 were from previous employers, with required records of validation on file.

(b) Of the 14 required references, 8 were from sources other than previous employers, with required records of validation on file.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained and were on file for each of the seven adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Translated police vetting records were available on file for two of the seven adults, who had lived outside the State as adults for a period of six consecutive months or longer.

(4) Records demonstrated that five adults had achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, at level 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed to be equivalent. One adult was employed under the CE scheme, and one adult who was not working directly with the children did not require a qualification.

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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) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(3) The adult to child ratio were observed to exceed the minimum requirement over the duration of the inspection. The ratio was as follows: There were 4 adults directly caring for 18 children.

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.*

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Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) – (i) Prior to a child commencing in the service, all parents and/or guardians were issued with a child registration form. This registration form was developed by the service and contained all of the required information for parents and/or guardians to complete. The service has 44 early years children registered and a sample of 10 records were inspected. They were found to contain the required information as listed (a) through to (i).

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 need:

- Food was prepared by the service and was observed to be healthy and nutritious. Examples of food served for snacks were yogurts, crackers, cheese, rice cakes and fruit.
- The adults were observed helping and assisting the children where necessary at snack time.
- Drinking water was available to the children throughout the morning in the care room.
- Children were observed accessing the sanitary area independently. Adults were available to provide assistance.
- Children's independence was promoted with adults observed supporting and encouraging children with self-help skills. Examples included children putting on their coats and putting butter on crackers.
- Children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of a child's vinyl couch. Age and stage appropriate books were positioned nearby.
- Outdoor play was promoted and observed at the time of inspection with the adults observing and assisting children during play. The inspector observed children playing in a large tarmac area in the back of the school.

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Supporting relationships:

- The adults were observed to show positive regard for all the children in the care room on the day of inspection. The children were encouraged and praised during tasks in a warm and caring manner. For example, the adults sat at the table at the children's level completing artwork, assisting with moulding dough and engaging with the children through play and song.
- Adults were observed to lower to floor level with the children and engage in play. For example; adults were getting served food from the toy kitchen, getting their hair done in the home area.
- Adults engaged with the children in both group and individual activities. They were observed to sit with children in small groups or individually, engaged in conversation with and listened attentively to the children as they spoke.
- Various methods of communication were used to link with parents and guardians such as messaging through email and communication at collection and drop off. Parents are also given the opportunity to have an individual meeting about their child bi-annually or outside of this time if required. Parents were observed to come to the door of the room to collect their children, and positive interactions were observed between parents/ guardians and the adults in the service.
- Children's identity and belonging were fostered through the display of works of art, family photos, a birthday calendar and a photograph display of activities completed. These were located at the children's height.
- The children were encouraged to tidy up after tasks, which promoted a sense of responsibility.
- Preparations were underway for the end of year graduation. Children were observed to sing in a group with the adults to prepare for this event.

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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:

- On the day of inspection, the door was appropriately secured on arrival to the premises and entry was gained by the use of a doorbell. This restricted unauthorised access into the building and helped to prevent the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- The outdoor area was enclosed for the children by the walls of the school, timber gates and a metal railing with three gates. During outdoor play, the adults remained near the three gates and a risk assessment was completed assigning adults to monitor each gate to mitigate risks of a child exiting the premises.
- During the inspection, toys and play equipment assessed were observed to be in good condition.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children on inspection.
- The windows in the care room were out of reach of the children and adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children.
- The first aid box was stored out of reach of the children.
- There were no cables or trailing flexes accessible to the children on the day of inspection.

Infection Control:

- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available to the children and staff. Water temperatures were recorded between 38°C and 40°C in the handbasins in the service.
- Hand washing by the children was observed to take place under the supervision of the adults prior to snack time, after outdoor play and after using the toilet.
- Lidded pedal bins were in use for the disposal of waste in the sanitary area and the care room.
- Children's coats were stored off the ground on wall hooks.
- Perishable foods were stored in the refrigerator to prevent food spoilage.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.
- The fire extinguisher was secured to the walls.

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Outing:

- No outings were conducted on the day of inspection. The person in charge informed the inspector that they may occasionally take walks with a risk assessment completed prior to this occurring. On discussing the risk assessment with the person in charge, the risk assessment had a number of strategies in place to mitigate identified risks to the children.

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-

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service.

(3)

(b) A daily record of visitors to the premises was kept in the care room. The inspector was requested to signed in and out from the service.

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.

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Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) Fire drill records were reviewed. Evidence was available to show fire drills were practiced and recorded on a monthly basis. Records showed that the last fire drill was completed 11 May 2026.
- (b) The certification of servicing for the firefighting equipment indicated this was carried out on the 2 September 2025 and the maintenance of the smoke alarm was carried out on the 10 March 2026.
- (4) The services fire evacuation procedure was clearly displayed on the notice board at the door.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the services was adequately insured. The insurance policy commenced on 28 March 2026 and will expire on 27 March 2027.