

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE032
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Corofin Childcare Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	38 Laghtagoona Estate, Corofin, Co. Clare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V95 Y738
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Olga O'Malley
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/05/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, County Clare.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á. McCarthy
<b>Title:</b>	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).

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

Corofin Childcare Centre is a sessional service located in the rural village of Corofin, County Clare. The service is located in an adapted, single storey premises. The children's care and education is facilitated in two care rooms. The service operates a morning session Monday to Friday for thirty-eight weeks each year from 09:30-12:30 for children ranging in age from two to six years. The children have access to an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the service.

### Staffing

During the inspection the manager and two members of staff worked directly with the children. The staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education and evidence of engagement in continuing professional development was noted on the staff files.

### 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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19(1)(a), 23, 24, 25, 26 and 28. 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.

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, the 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)

On the day of the inspection, the service manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b)

During the period of the inspection, the designated person in charge was present on the premises.

Four files were reviewed in respect of the registered provider and the three members of staff. These included the following:

(2)(a)

Four written and validated references from past employers were available for some of the staff members.

(b)

Where past employer references were not available, four references from sources other than past employers were available on file.

(c)

Garda Vetting disclosures were available in respect of the four staff members employed by the service.

(d)

International police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived in another State for a period longer than six months.

(4)

Four adults working in the service held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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.*

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

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)  
During the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children.
- (3)  
The minimum ratio of adults working directly with the children was maintained at all times. Three members of staff cared for seventeen children during the sessional programme.
- (8) (a)  
Not applicable, the service was not operated single-handedly, and more than two adults were available in the service.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
The service maintained an adequate record for each child attending the service, in accordance with Regulation 15(1) (a) 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

(1)(a)

The inspector observed the children's learning, development and well-being being supported by the staff. The staff treated the children with positive regard. Interactions with children were undertaken on a one-to-one and in a group basis, each conversation and activity was completed at their level. The staff sat with the children at mealtime and during play-based activities and were observed to listen attentively and converse amicably with each child. Children's cues for assistance were responded to promptly and the staff communicated in a kind and caring manner. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence. The children were encouraged in accordance with their own level of independence while they were feeding, caring for their belongings, completing tasks, and using the toilet.

The transitions through the programme of care in each care room were completed with ease by the staff. All the children freely moved in the indoor to the outdoor environment. Upon arrival the children were engaged in a painting exercise that included use of yellow bubble wrap depicting the honeycomb and the lifecycle of a bee theme. The children transitioned to table-top activities that included sensory, construction and imaginative play. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion where the adults sat and conversed with the children. The children concluded the session engaging in play-based activities in the outdoor area. Individual records were available for each child with photographs of completed activities and learning descriptors explaining the context of the activity were documented with each photograph. The children's artwork was displayed on the walls.

The indoor and outdoor environments were bright and spacious and laid out with designated interest areas, low level tables, chairs and shelving with equipment and materials which were accessible to the children. An area for the children to rest and designated interest areas included: a reading area, a kitchen corner, a dolls house and supporting materials and equipment, a construction area, a sensory area and a shop corner. The care room was equipped with low level units with containers storing bricks, blocks, shape sorters, puzzles, jigsaws and animals. The outdoor provided a large space for the children to play.

A covered wooden section accommodated sand and water tables and a mud kitchen and supporting materials. The general play area included: balance boards, rocking toys, a wooden playhouse, a climbing frame and a slide.

### 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 external entrance door to the pre-school premises was secured with an electronic keypad security system.
- Safe storage was available for the cleaning agents and equipment used in the service.
- The play equipment and materials were maintained in good condition.
- The outdoor area was suitably secured by a concrete wall and wooden gate to protect the children within.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition.
- Liquid soap at the wash hand basins to facilitate hygienic hand washing for children and adults. Paper towels were provided in the dispensers in the sanitary areas used by the children and adults to facilitate hygienic hand drying.
- Perishable food items were stored in the fridge.

##### Administration of Medication:

- The manager confirmed that medications were not routinely administered in the service.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire exit doors throughout the building and passageways were unobstructed and clearly identified.
- A designated assembly point was clearly signposted outside the service as a safe area in the event of a fire.

##### Outings:

- The manager stated that the service is not currently undertaking outings.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

A record of the children's daily arrival and departure times was available for review by the inspector.

### 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)

One member of staff in the service had an up to date First Aid Responder training certificate. Two members of staff had a record of up to date paediatric first aid.

(2)(a)

First aid boxes were available in the two care rooms in conspicuous positions.

(b)

The first aid boxes were available to the children attending the pre-school service 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.
- (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)

Records were available to demonstrate that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis. The last fire drill was completed on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

(b)

A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available in the service. The firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and the smoke alarm system was completed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022.

(4)

The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on the premises.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The insurance certificate for the service was available and in date on inspection. The required cover was available, for a maximum of thirty children who could attend at any one time.