

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE073
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Name of Service:	Liscannor Childcare
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Address of Service:	Mc Creehy's National School, Liscannor, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 R896
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kieran Considine
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	19/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	A.McCarthy
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

Not applicable

Description of service

Liscannor Childcare Centre was established in 1996, as a community-based service in Liscannor national school grounds, in County Clare. The childcare facility is located in a purpose-built, single storey building. A programme of care and education is provided on a full day, part time and a sessional basis for children ranging in age from two to six years. A school aged childcare service is provided in the afternoons and during school holidays. The service operates Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 17:30.

Staffing

On the 19 September 2024, the manager and three adults worked directly with the children during the inspection. The registered provider is part of the board of management and does not work 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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4), 11 (1)(2)(8)(a), 19 (1)(a), 23 and 28 on inspection. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report. 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 manager was the person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The manager and a named person to deputise was available at all times during the inspection.

(2)

Eight files were available in respect of the registered provider, manager and six adults working in the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

Six written references from past employers in respect of adults working in the service were available.

- (b)
Six written references were available in respect adults working in the service from a source other than a past employer.
- (c)
Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d)
International police vetting was not required for the adults working in the service, as the adults had not lived in another state for a period longer than six months.
- (4)
Seven adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications at Level 5 and 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

- Four written and validated references were not available in respect of two adults working in the service.
- Six written references in respect of three adults working in the service were not validated.

The non-compliance was found on last inspection on the 08 and 09 November 2022.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

(2)(a)(b)

Corrective and Preventive Action

Written references are validated, submitted to the Inspectorate and on file.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of references and validations.

Summary Comment

Based on the corrective and preventive actions and supporting documentation submitted by the service, the areas of non-compliance under Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b). The requirements for Regulation 9 are met. The corrective actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

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)

During the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.

(2)

On the 19 September 2024, the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained in the pre-school room. Three adults cared for the eighteen children attending the service in the morning and five adults cared for thirteen children in the afternoon.

(8)(a)

During the inspection more than two adults were available on the premises at all times.

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,

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs of Children:

The adults interacted with the children in a kind and caring manner. The children were supported by the adults during their chosen activity and responded to their needs in a prompt manner. On the inspector's arrival the children were engaged in open ended play-based activities, which included constructing magnetic tiles, jigsaws and building blocks. The children rotated to the art area, pretend play kitchen and shop area. The children transitioned to circle time where they engaged in song and rhyme prior to mealtime. The children were encouraged to be independent when caring for their belongings, during the activities and whilst using the toilet. The children and adults sat and ate together during mealtime and conversed amicably. After mealtime the children engaged in open ended, play-based activities, story time and colouring exercises.

Physical and Material Environment:

The indoor environment was adequately resourced, spacious and bright. The programme of care was provided in an open plan room and an adjoining room with a sliding door that remained open during the inspection. The rooms were laid out with designated interest areas and a wooden tree house with a door in the centre of the room that accommodated a seating area with a large range of reading materials. Low level seating and tables were provided for the children. The play materials and equipment were freely available and accessible to the children in containers on low level shelving. The room was laid out with an art area, a sand play area, a construction play area, a farming area, a home corner and a shop. A large couch was used by the children to rest and relax throughout the inspection. Shelving units were accessed by the children these included manipulative and constructive play materials and equipment.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Physical and Material Environment:

1. The service did not provide a sufficient quantity of play materials and equipment in the outdoor play area for the number, age range and developmental level of the children and required further development. Opportunities for sensory, gross motor and risky play were not available for the twenty-one preschool and sixteen school aged children enrolled in the service

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(a)

Physical and Material Environment:

1.

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Equipment has been purchased; a copy of payment has been submitted. A photograph with evidence of the equipment assembled will be forwarded to the inspectorate. The service will ensure sufficient quantity of play materials and equipment will be available in the outdoor area for the number of children , age range and development

Supporting documentation submitted

1. A copy of the receipt for purchased equipment.

Summary Comment

The service has purchased equipment for the outdoor area. The corrective and preventive actions under Regulation 19(1)(a) will be reviewed on next inspection.

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 to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children.
- The outdoor play area was secured with fencing and a gate to protect the children within.
- Cleaning agents and storage areas were inaccessible to the children.
- Domestic waste was stored in a secured area which was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- The childcare facility was maintained in a clean and a hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facility was equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and a pedal operated bin.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals before using the toilet and prior to mealtime.

Administration of Medication:

- The manager stated that medication is not routinely administered.
- Documentation is available should medication be required. A policy is available to inform the staff and parents of the service's procedures.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit routes and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- The fire assembly point was readily identifiable.
- A fire drill was completed during the inspection.
- A fire action notice was available in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Three metal beams in the outdoor play area did not have protective covers in place which posed a potential risk of injury to a child. The non-compliance was found on last inspection on the 08 and 09 November 2022.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The metal beams in the outdoor area have been covered with a soft mat. The beams will be covered at all times and checked daily and will be replaced if needed.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographs.

Summary Comment

Based on the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider. The areas of non-compliance are addressed. The corrective actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for twenty-four pre-school children. The policy is valid until the 27 March 2025.