

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE102			
Name of Service:	Mother Goose Creche			
Address of Service:	Clonfadda, Killaloe, Co. Clare			
Eircode:	V94 YP63			
Name of Registered Provider:	Catriona Devereux			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection (Day 1):	18/08/2025			
Date of Inspection (Day 2):	19/08/2025			
No of pre-school children (Day 1):	AM	20	PM	19
No of pre-school children (Day 2):	AM	22	PM	22
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare			
Inspection undertaken by:	J. Hayes & Á. McCarthy			
Title:	Early Years Inspectors			

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

Condition attached against Regulation 9 (Management and Recruitment) This condition requires that the Registered Provider must: -Ensure 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.

Description of service

Mother Goose Creche was established in 2000, as a private childcare facility in Killaloe, County Clare. A programme of care is facilitated on a sessional, part time and full day care basis Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 17:30. During the inspection three care rooms were in operation. The rooms included the Toddler room (age range: 2 years to 3 years), the Junior ECCE room (age range: 2 to 4 years) and the Senior ECCE room (age range: 4 to 5 years). A fourth care room was used by the school aged children. A school aged childcare service is in operation every afternoon during school term and full-time during school holidays. The outdoor play area is divided into two sections and is located at the back and side of the service.

Staffing

Twenty adults are employed by the service. On both days of inspection six adults worked directly with the pre-school children in attendance. Two chefs job share each week and prepare, cook and serve the meals. The manager and a second adult provided an administrative role during the inspection. The registered provider was present on both days of inspection and provided administrative assistance to the manager. An adult was available to provide relief cover in care rooms during break time and busy periods.

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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)(7)(a)

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

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 16-Record in relation to pre-school service (1)(i)(k)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 27 – Supervision

Regulation 30 Minimum space requirements (2)

Regulation 31-Notification of incidents (d)

Regulation 32 – Complaints (1)(a)(b)(c)

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (7)(a) Regulation 16(1)(k). 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.

Additional Information

The inspection was triggered by information received by the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate concerns department.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the days 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

On the 18 and 19 August 2025, the manager was the person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence. The registered provider was present on both days of inspection.

(b)

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

(c)

A clear management structure was evidenced on both days of inspection. The manager and members of staff who deputise as manager were aware of their roles and responsibilities within the service and the staff roster demonstrated that a person who is available to deputise is available at all times.

(2)

Five files were reviewed in respect of the adults who commenced in the service since the last inspection .

(a)

Seven references with evidence of validation were sourced from a past employer.

(b)

Three references required were obtained from sources other than past employers.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4)

Twelve adults who required a childcare qualification working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications from Level 5 to Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(7)(a)

Records of induction training and policy training were available and signed after completion for the adults that had commenced in the service since the last inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

International police vetting with evidence of certified translation was not available in respect of one adult employed by the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six consecutive months. The potential risk of not having adults appropriately vetted may allow adults who are inappropriate to have access to children.

(7)(a)

The supervision of the adults working in the service was at variance with the service's supervision policy. The supervision policy outlined that all adults must have supervision, on a monthly by monthly/quarterly basis and records in relation to each supervision should be maintained on the adult's files. The manager did not have supervision records for the five staff files requested on inspection. Supervision meetings provide an opportunity for management to monitor and ensure quality of practice as well as providing support and feedback to the employees.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

The manager has applied for police vetting from the relevant country for the adult.
New staff induction check list books have been ordered and will be in place going forward.

(7)(a)

The manager has scheduled one to one meeting with all staff. Each supervision will be documented thoroughly, in a record book. A roster has been developed for supervisions to take place on a quarterly basis..

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(d)

Application for police vetting and receipt of payment for same.

Photograph of the staff induction checklist.

(7)(a)

Copies of the staff quarterly supervision roster submitted.

Summary Comment

9(7)(a)

Based on the registered providers corrective actions and the supporting documentation submitted, the area of non-compliance under Regulation 9(7)(a) has been addressed.

9(2)(d)

Evidence of an application for one adult for International Police Vetting was reviewed; however, a copy of the completed International Police vetting has not been submitted to the inspectorate to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. The noncompliance in relation to Regulation 9(2)(d) remains out outstanding.

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 following policies, procedures and statements in Schedule 5 were reviewed and met the necessary requirements:

- Complaints policy.
- Recruitment policy.
- Supervision policy.
- Risk Management Policy.
- Policy on Accidents and Incidents.

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)

An adequate number of adults were working with the children on both days of inspection.

(2)

The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to.

On 18 August 2025 six adults worked directly with 20 children in the morning and 19 children in the afternoon.

On the 19 August 2025 six adults worked directly with 22 children for the morning and afternoon.

(8)(a)

The staff roster indicated that at least two adults were available in the service during the hours of operation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(i)

The staff roster accounted for all the adults that were employed by the service and recorded relief cover for adult absences.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(k)

A sample of 10 accident, injury and incident records for children attending the service were reviewed on the childcare application device. Of the 10 records reviewed a parental signature was not available after 6 accidents that had occurred to children. This practice is at variance with the service policy which requires all accidents, injuries and incidents to be notified and signed by parents.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(k)

The service has re-introduced the use of an accident and incident book. Parents are asked to sign the form when collecting their child, ensuring timely acknowledgement and compliance with our service policy. Parents will receive one copy, a copy will be stored in each child's file and a copy will remain in the book. Books are now kept by the exits of each room

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(k)

Photographic evidence

Summary Comment

Based on the registered providers corrective actions and the supporting documentation submitted, the non-compliance under Regulation 16(1)(k) has been addressed.

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 treated the children in a caring manner in the three care rooms in operation. The adults responded to the children's cues for assistance, to be held and to be hugged. The adults demonstrated an understanding of the children's individual preferences and capabilities.

The children's nappies were changed on an individual need's basis, and the adults carried out these procedures in a sensitive manner. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their age and level of development. The older children were encouraged to be independent while caring for their personal belongings, using the toilet, participation in tasks and tidy up time.

The children's cues for sleep were responded to in a prompt and calm manner, and the children who did not require sleep joined the older children in the outdoor area for play based activities.

Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable period whereby the children and adults conversed amicably. Suitable age-appropriate crockery and feeding utensils were provided during mealtime. Food was prepared, cooked and served by the kitchen staff. The meals provided included shepherd's pie and spaghetti bolognaise. Additional food was provided to children when required. Water was freely available and accessible for the children in all the care rooms.

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 to and from the premises and to prevent unauthorised adults gaining access.
- The outdoor play areas were secured with fencing and gates to protect the children within.
- The children's arrival and departure times were recorded on the childcare application device.
- A book was available to record visitors to the service.
- Medication was stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.
- All blind cords in the service were secured.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals to include after messy play, using the toilet and before mealtime.
- Liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of paper waste throughout the service.
- The children perishable food items were stored in the fridges.

- The children’s soothers were stored in individually labelled containers.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection. Documentation was available and detailed consent before and after medication were administered. The service policy was available to inform the adults working directly with the children in relation to administering medication to children.

Safe Sleep:

- The adults demonstrated an awareness of the service’s safe sleep policy.
- Children were placed to sleep in their individual low-level beds.
- A thermometer was available in each care room where children were placed to sleep for the adults to measure and monitor the room temperatures. The room temperatures were maintained between the required temperature of 18-22°Celsius.
- The adults recorded the sleeping children’s observations every ten minutes during sleep periods on a written record.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A toxic aerosol spray and window cleaning agent were accessible in an unlocked, low-level cupboard in the Junior ECCE room. The posed a potential risk should a child access these items.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. All toxic aerosol sprays and window cleaning agents have been removed from low-level cupboards accessible to children. The substances have been relocated to a locked, high-level cupboard / locked storage area, out of reach and sight of children.

The press in the Junior ECCE Room has been fitted with child proof lock.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

Based on the registered providers corrective actions and the supporting documentation submitted, the non-compliance under Regulation 23 General safety has been addressed.

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)
The manager and the administrator had a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training and the staff roster indicated that an adult with First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available in the service at all times.

(2)(a)
Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in the kitchen and Senior ECCE room with identifiable signage.

(b)
The first aid boxes were available in the service for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that children were appropriately supervised during the inspection. The ratio of adults supervising children was maintained at all times in each care room. A relief person was available to cover breaks in each room.

The children's arrival and departure time were recorded on the electronic application system. The inspectors observed that staff were deployed effectively to maintain suitable levels of supervision both in the indoor and outdoor areas.

Children were within sight and hearing of adults. Appropriate supervision was observed during open ended play, structured activities, mealtime, nappy changing, toileting and sleep periods. Staff demonstrated an awareness of the service policies most notably their roles in maintaining children's safety.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Compliance Information

(2)
The registered provider ensured that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 was available in each care room in respect of the age range specified in column (2) and number of children currently attending and proposing to attend the service in September 2025.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

(d) a serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner whether in a hospital or otherwise;

Non-Compliance Information

(d)
One incident that occurred in relation to a pre-school child who required medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner was not notified to the Tusla Early Years Inspector within the required timeframe of 3 working days. This practice is at variance with the service accident and incident policy.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d)
Management and staff are aware of their obligations under Regulation 31(d). A monthly meeting will be held with all staff to facilitate training on policies.

Supporting documentation submitted

(d)

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

Based on the registered providers corrective actions and the supporting documentation submitted, the non-compliance under Regulation 31(d) has been addressed.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-

- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
- (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
- (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*

Compliance Information

(1)
A complaints policy was available in the service and adequately outlined the following:

- (a) Details of the service’s procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service.
- (b) Details of how a complaint will be dealt with by the service.
- (c) Details of the procedures in place outlining how the person who makes a complaint in relation to the service will be informed and how the complaint is managed.

The service manager and registered provider demonstrated an awareness of the service policy and the procedure in the event of a complaint.