

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CW006
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Name of Service:	Ballon Rathoe Community childcare Facility LTD
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Address of Service:	Ballon Childcare Facility, Ballon, Co. Carlow
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Eircode:	R93 A9D0
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Name of Registered Provider:	Patricia Farrell on behalf of Ballon Rathoe Community Childcare
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	26/02/2026
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Date 2 of Inspection:	27/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	77	PM	59
Day 2	AM	81	PM	N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child & Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Cullen & N Thornton
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	Not applicable
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Description of service

Ballon Rathoe Community Childcare service is a community built childcare service located in the village of Ballon in northeast county Carlow. The service offers full day, part-time and sessional childcare services for children aged 0 to 6 years of age. The service operates from a purpose-built premises comprised of five preschool classrooms and two school aged classrooms in the main building and two additional preschool classrooms located in the adjacent purpose- built wooden building. There is a designated kitchen for food storage and preparation, a children's dining room, and two sleep rooms on the ground floor of the main building.

The onsite outdoor play areas are comprised of one large soft play surface area to the front of the building and four soft play areas at the back of the building. An all-weather half size pitch and play area for older children is located on an elevated first floor area which can be directly accessed from the fire escape bridge from the first-floor classrooms.

The service was operating at a reduced capacity on both days of inspection, on day one playschool room two was closed and on day two of inspection the baby room was closed.

Staffing

There are 35 adults employed in the service, including the designated person in charge, a quality manager, three childcare community employment scheme participants, three kitchen staff and a cleaner. There were also two work experience students. The registered provider does not work in the service. All 27 staff members, who as part of their role in the service are employed to work directly with the preschool children hold qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) framework.

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

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- 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations

9– Management and Recruitment, 11 – Staffing levels, 16 - Record in relation to pre-school service, 19 - Health, welfare and development of child, 20 – Facilities for rest and play, 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child, 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance, and 29 – Premises however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances . These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 16, 19, 20 and 23 As a result, the scope of the inspection included the baby, wobbler, toddler, preschool one and two.

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.

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Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the service on 27 February 2026 in the absence of a Garda vetting disclosure. Further information is detailed under Regulation 9 (2)(c) of this report.

A referral to the Services Operating outside of Registration Status (SOORS) department was submitted on the 02 March 2025 as the registered provider detailed on the register had resigned since October 2025 and no registered provider has been named as a replacement.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, quality manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

On arrival to the service the designated person in charge confirmed to the inspectors that the registered provider named on the Early Years Inspectorate national register of preschool services was no longer in position. While the quality manager and designated person in charge confirmed a person has been appointed to replace the registered provider this change was not notified to the Early Years Inspectorate Change in Circumstance department. A change in circumstances application form was not submitted to the Inspectorate regarding the change in registered provider which occurred in November 2025.

This was also identified as a non-compliance on the last inspection 18 June 2025, and the preventative actions stated by the service did not prevent a reoccurrence.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The Change in Circumstances (CIC) process in respect of the registered provider has now been completed. All required documentation has been finalised, and the service registration has been updated to reflect the current registered provider.

This has been reviewed by the Board of Management and the management team to ensure that regulatory notification requirements continue to be addressed in a timely manner.

The service is overseen by the Board of Management, working in coordination with the management team, with clear responsibility for ensuring that any CIC is progressed and notified as required. Appropriate oversight is maintained to ensure regulatory requirements are addressed in a timely manner.

Supporting documentation submitted

CIC application.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified has been adequately addressed.

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;*
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and*
- (c) these Regulations.*

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Compliance Information

(1)(a) There is a designated person in charge and two named persons, the quality manager and deputy designated person in charge who can deputise as required.

(b) On arrival to the service the deputy designated person in charge met the inspectors. The quality manager was also onsite and facilitated the inspection's introductory meeting. The designated person in charge arrived back to the service at approximately 11:30 hours after being offsite attending to administration duties.

(4) Certificates of qualification ranging from Level 5 to 6 on the national Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) framework were available for each of the new staff members employed in the service since the last inspection who as part of their role in the service worked directly with the children in attendance.

(7) The quality manager demonstrated that all new staff members had been provided with information in relation to policies and procedures of operation in the service which was evidenced in individual employee records reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(c) While information was provided on the notice board in the main entrance hall outlining who the designated person in charge was and roles in relation to child safeguarding, there was no documented outline of the following information for parents: The specific roles of the designated person in charge, the role of the quality manager, the named deputy designated person in charge and their role, the designated room leaders and keyworkers for children in each classroom or any of the ancillary staff to inform parents clearly who the staff and what their roles were.

(2)(a)(b) While there were two references from previous employers or reputable sources, available for each of five new staff members and one student who had commenced in the service since the last inspection on the 18 June 2025, there was only one reference available for one staff member and no references available for two third level students on placement in the service.

(2)(c) While Garda Vetting for six staff members and three students who had commenced employment and placement in the service was available on file and the service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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There was no Garda Vetting in place for the individual that was identified to the inspectors as being the incoming registered provider, as detailed in regulation 8.

(2)(d) While police vetting had been obtained for one new staff member who had commenced employment since last inspection, police vetting disclosure certificates had not been obtained for two other staff members who had also commenced in the service and had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(c) Parents are informed of staff roles and key persons during enrolment and settling-in. This has been further clarified to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined for parents. Information on staff roles is kept up to date and communicated to parents as part of normal practice, including any changes to staffing. The service is also developing a website to further support visibility of staff roles for parents.

(2)(a)(b) References for staff were in place, including verbal references obtained prior to commencement. At the time of inspection, not all references had been retained on file. This has now been addressed, and all required references are on file for the relevant staff members.

In relation to students on placement, engagement took place directly with college tutors as part of the placement process. Where written references were not retained on file at the time, available documentation has now been updated where applicable. References continue to be obtained as part of the recruitment process and are retained on file within the service. Ongoing attention is given to ensuring that all documentation is fully recorded and available as required.

(2)(c) Following the inspection, Garda Vetting for the incoming Registered Provider has now been completed and is on file. All vetting requirements via Tusla will be in place in a timely manner.

(2)(d) Since the inspection the international police vetting process has been completed and is on file. Creche managers commit to ensuring that all vetting requirements are in place at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation and records of staff roles and responsibilities, references, garda vetting.

Two international police vettings in their language of origin.

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Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider address 3 of the 4 non-compliances identified.

The findings documented at subsection (2)(d) remain non-compliant as the registered provider's responses partially addressed the noncompliance. Evidence of International Police Vetting was received however; these were not in English or accompanied by a verified translation. 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 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.

Compliance Information

(1) On day one of inspection there were 77 children with 19 staff members directly supervising them during the morning of the inspection and 59 children with 16 staff members directly supervising them during the afternoon. On the morning of day two of inspection there were 81 children with 14 staff members supervising them.

(2) At 10:50 on day one of inspection, the staff to child ratios were maintained as follows throughout the service:

- The baby room, there were 8 children aged 11 to 18 months of age being cared for by 4 staff.
- The wobbler room, there were 11 children aged 15 to 24 months old being cared for by 3 staff.
- The toddler room, there were 13 children aged 2 to 3 years old being cared for by 3 staff.
- Preschool room one, there were 14 children aged 4 to 5 years old being cared for by 3 staff.
- Preschool room two, there were 12 children aged 4 to 5 years old being cared for by 2 staff.
- Playschool room one, there were 19 children aged 3 to 4 years old being cared for by 3 staff.
- Playschool room two was closed.

At 09:15 on day two of inspection, the staff to child ratios were maintained as follows throughout the service:

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- The baby room was closed.
- The wobbler room, there were 10 children aged 15 to 24 months old being cared for by 2 staff.
- The toddler room, there were 12 children aged 2 to 3 years old being cared for by 3 staff.
- Preschool room one, there were 13 children aged 4 to 5 years old being cared for by 2 staff.
- Preschool room two, there were 12 children aged 4 to 5 years old being cared for by 2 staff.
- Playschool room one, there were 18 children aged 3 to 4 years old being cared for by 2 staff.
- Playschool room two, there were 16 children aged 3 to 4 years old being cared for by 3 staff.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

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Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(h) Written records of elements a, b, c, d, e, f, g and h were maintained in the service and available for review.

(1)(j) On review of a sample of eight administration of medication records the inspector observed that the records had been detailed and completed in line with the service's administration of medication policy, including parental consent.

(1)(k) On review of a sample of six accident/incident records involving a preschool child, the inspector observed that records had been maintained in line with the service's accident/ incident policy.

Non-Compliance Information

(i) A staff roster for the week of 23 February to 27 February 2026 was presented to the inspectors.

The roster was inaccurate and incomplete in some areas. The following examples were identified:

- This roster was not updated daily to reflect the staff members in attendance on both days of inspection. On day two of the inspection two staff members who were present were not on the days roster and informed the inspector that they had been contacted the evening prior by the designated person in charge requesting them to work on day two of the inspection.
- The roster detailed each staff member's starting time, but no finishing time or break and lunch times were documented.
- The roster did not provide information on what staff were available to cover staff breaks or lunches.
- The roster did not detail the full name of each staff member.
- There were no recorded times of attendance and staff breaks for the designated person in charge or the quality manager.
- On day one of the inspection the inspector observed that the quality manager relieved for breaks to maintain adult to child ratios in classrooms. This was not reflected on the staff roster and in discussion with staff, the inspector was informed that this did not usually happen if relief cover was required.
- No named staff members were recorded for cover in case of staff absences, which did occur on both days of inspection.

The designated person in charge had previously submitted a corrective and preventive action to a non-compliance under regulation 11 in the last inspection on 18 June 2025 stating that "a floating staff member will be rostered daily", "lunch cover schedule introduced, floating staff allocated as needed".

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

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Corrective and Preventive Action

Updated staff roster is in place reflecting daily staffing arrangements. The roster now includes full staff names, start and finish times and break times for all staff, including management.

The daily roster system has been reviewed to ensure that all staffing adjustments and operational changes are recorded in real time to accurately reflect practice. Creche Managers will be responsible for ensuring rosters are compliant, any changes on the roster due to staff absent will be corrected promptly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Revised staff roster.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified has been adequately addressed. Implementation will be reviewed on next inspection.

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*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Staff members were observed to treat the children with respect and a positive regard. They sat with children in small groups or individually, engaged in conversation with and listened attentively to the children as they spoke. On day one of inspection children were preparing for pyjama day, staff members engaged in learning activities on this topic.

Parent and guardian communication during collection and drop off periods, provided an opportunity for staff to verbally share information with parents as they collected children from their classroom. Parent's noticeboards in

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several locations on the premises detailed upcoming events such as pancake and pyjama day. Activity calendars, daily routines, the monthly curriculum newsletter and an invite to parents to come in and read a story also promoted partnership with parents. Reminders for parents including the services sick children policy and a nut free zone were also displayed. Parental feedback forms were also available in the lobby. Email and text messages are used by the service to communicate with parents.

The indoor areas were bright, warm, and homely, this was achieved using natural materials and neutral colours. Children's identity and belonging was fostered through the display of works of art and their recent learning, examples such as a 'down in the jungle' display in the toddler room and an insect hotel in preschool one was on display.

Low-level open shelving units were used to create areas of interest. Children could freely access materials and resources from the labelled shelves and storage containers, promoting independence and choice making. A range of play-based materials were offered in home corners, small world play, sensory areas, and puzzles areas of the rooms. A selection of real life and natural materials were available to support play and learning. Children had access to a selection of sensory play experiences including sand, water, and pasta. Activity trays were observed in use for example in the toddler room an activity encouraged exploration with pinecones, feathers, pom poms and other materials. Sensory activities such as painting with ice were observed to support creativeness with varying mediums.

Children's literacy development was promoted with a well laid out library areas. Books, dress up materials and puppets were available for use by the children. Real life props such as phones, cooking equipment, clipboards and shopping bags promoted pretend play and creative exploration.

(1)(b)

A hot meal was cooked onsite daily; a three-week menu was available and all allergens listed. On day one of the inspection the meal served was chicken, potato, mixed vegetables and sauce. Drinks were freely accessible to the children in each classroom throughout the day, drinks stations were on low level shelves. Mealtimes observed were unhurried social experiences in most rooms, staff sat with children and engaged in conversation. The children were encouraged to feed themselves appropriate to their stage of development and were assisted as required.

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Regular nappy changing took place throughout the day and staff were observed to engage attentively with children during the process. Children who were toilet trained, were supported to use the toilet independently and handwashing was promoted after both nappy changing and toileting. Attention was given to children's appearance with staff observed to clean children's faces and hands.

Sleep was child led and staff worked in partnership with parents to ensure consistency between home and service routines. Children were placed to sleep when signs of tiredness were recognised by staff, this was observed in the baby room when children were placed to sleep as required during the day. Rooms used for sleeping were sufficiently dark and quiet to promote a restful sleep. Low-level floor beds were available to meet the sleep needs of children over 2 years of age.

Children had free movement and choice of activities in all rooms observed on the day. An outdoor rota was displayed in each room and children were observed in the outdoor area throughout the inspection. Appropriate clothing was available for all children to access the outdoor area in all weathers.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Supporting Relationships and Interactions around Children.

On day one of inspection some children did not have the opportunity to eat with their peers at lunch time. Those attending part time ate alone in their classrooms while their classmates went to the dining room for lunch. Staff were involved in cleaning at this time and did not sit with the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Staff have been reminded that, even in exceptional circumstances such as room closures, children must continue to be supported within normal mealtime routines as part of the daily practice. Children are not left to eat alone, and staff are always present to support and engage with children during mealtimes. Arrangements have since been updated so that all children attending the service, whether full-time, part-time, or sessional, now eat together.

Lunchtime routines are organised so that children eat together as part of the daily schedule. Where a room is closed, children will continue to join other children for mealtimes in the dining area or designated eating space, depending on their meal arrangement (canteen or in-room snack).

Staff remain present to support the routine and ensure consistency for all children during mealtimes.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Communication with staff members.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified have been adequately addressed.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-*

- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There were adequate and suitable facilities available for the numbers of children attending the service. The seven early years rooms were clean and organised. There was consideration given to the layout of the rooms, to ensure children could play together in groups or individually. With the recent purchase of additional resources, the baby, wobbler and toddler rooms had improved since the last inspection with defined areas of interest, cosy nooks and appropriately resourced accessible shelving units. New tables and suitable chairs had been introduced to the toddler, wobbler and baby rooms ensuring children could sit comfortably together for meals and activities.

(1)(b) There were two sleep rooms available, on the day of inspection children from the baby and wobbler room were observed to use the sleep room adjacent to the wobbler room and children from the wobbler and toddler room used the sleep room adjacent to the toddler room. There were fifteen cots and three low level beds observed in use during the inspection.

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(3)(a) Children had access the enclosed outdoor play areas, during the inspection children were observed outdoors each day. The play spaces were free from hazards and equipment was safe for use by the age groups of children in attendance.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) The Toddler room rest area required development; it consisted of a soft mat with no additional soft furnishings to invite children to relax. This was in contrast with rest areas in other rooms in the service which contained cushions and other soft furnishings.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Rest areas have been reviewed. Cushions and soft furnishings are part of the designated rest environment and are made available to support children's comfort during rest times. Where cushions and soft furnishings are temporarily removed for activities or room use, staff ensure they are returned and the rest area is reset as part of the daily routine prior to rest times.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified have been adequately addressed.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

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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 main entrance gate and side entrance gate to the premises were both secured with a keypad call system. Entry via the entrance gates and the main entrance door was authorised by a staff member upon pressing a call bell. Staff were aware of private codes for each point of entry. Windows at the front of the main building provided a clear view of any person/ visitor using the call system to gain authorised access to the premises.

For both playschool rooms located in the adjacent wooden cabin, a coded entrance gate and main entrance door also ensured that only authorised persons could gain entry to the classrooms.

The perimeter of the main building of the service and the outdoor play areas was secured with high metal railings and a high wire fence.

The inspectors observed that cleaning materials and cleaning equipment were stored in designated areas which were inaccessible to the children.

Since the last inspection, the service had repaired the outdoor play surface of the playgrounds to the front and back of the main building to ensure any trip hazards were prevented. A daily risk assessment of the outdoor play area was recorded prior to all groups having daily access to outdoor play.

Windowsills to the front of the building which were at child height were padded with vinyl cushioned protectors to ensure children did not hurt themselves if they bumped into the windowsill.

New furniture and play equipment purchased since the last inspection was observed to be of an age-appropriate size and was secured appropriately in the classrooms.

Infection Control:

On observation of nappy changing procedures in the baby, wobbler and toddler changing rooms, the inspectors were assured that staff carried out the nappy changing procedures in line with the service's infection control policy's nappy changing policy and the service's handwashing policy while also ensuring children's hands were washed nappy changing.

Administration of Medication:

Signed medication records documented the details of any medicines which had been administered in the service in line with the service policy on administration of medication. Medications supplied by parents were stored securely and inaccessible to children. Comprehensive health care plans were put in place where required and staff

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members demonstrated awareness of the information in these plans and the steps to take in the event of a medical incident.

Fire Safety:

Fire evacuation plans were detailed in several areas of the building and emergency exits were clearly identifiable and free from obstruction.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the wobbler classroom, the pedal of the pedal operated bin was exposed with the metal rod of the pedal part posing a potential risk of injury to a child or adult using it.
2. In the toddler room, a trailing lead from a radio on a high-level shelf was accessible to children posing a risk of injury to children.

Infection Control:

Some aspects of practice and equipment did not support effective infection control. The following examples were observed:

3. In the two children's toilets adjacent to the pre-school classrooms on the first floor, the inspectors observed that there was no supply of paper towels or liquid hand soap on both days of inspection.
4. On day two of the inspection the inspectors observed that the children from playschool room one did not wash their hands before their meal after outdoor play.
5. The changing mat in the changing area adjacent to the toddler room was observed to be torn and could not be disinfected efficiently between nappy changes.

Safe Sleep:

6. Inadequate supervision of sleep was identified on inspection. In the sleep room adjacent to the toddler room a child was observed sleeping on a low-level floor bed without a staff member present in the room as required. Ten-minute sleep checks were completed and documented by staff members.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

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Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The pedal bin in the wobbler room has been checked and adjusted so that the mechanism is no longer exposed and is safe for use by children and staff. Daily checks of all room equipment are completed to ensure items remain safe, secure, and in good working order, including bin mechanisms and other potential hazards.
2. The trailing electrical lead in the toddler room has been repositioned.

Infection Control:

3. The observation made during inspection have been addressed. Toilets are checked regularly throughout the day to ensure soap and paper towels are available.
4. The observation made during inspection have been addressed. Handwashing is carried out with children before meals as part of the daily routine, including after outdoor play. Handwashing is built into the daily routine before meals, including after outdoor play, to ensure consistency in practice.
5. The observation made during inspection have been addressed. Any items found to be damaged or unsuitable are removed and replaced.

Safe Sleep:

6. Sleep arrangements have been reviewed. Sleep checks continue to be completed and recorded at regular intervals in line with safe sleep practice. The use of low-level beds in the sleep room has been reviewed to ensure appropriate sleep arrangements are in place. Where low level beds are used a staff member will be present. Staff will be reminded of safe sleep procedures and training re same provided at regular intervals

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographs

Infection Control:

Photographs and communication with staff.

Safe Sleep:

Communication with staff.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified have been adequately addressed. Implementation will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

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

Compliance Information

(1) On review of daily records maintained in each classroom, the inspectors observed that each pre-school child's daily attendance in and out of the service was recorded by a staff member.

(3)(a)(b) A daily record was maintained of any persons other than a pre-school child, person dropping or collecting a pre-school child, employee, unpaid worker, who had authorised entry to the service. The inspectors were requested to record details of the purpose of their visit to the service.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(c) The premises was adequately heated, lit and ventilated during the inspection. Room temperatures were maintained with the required 18-22°C, windows were observed opened to provide for air circulation and mechanical ventilation was available in sleep rooms and sanitary accommodation areas.

(d) Since the last inspection a cleaner has been employed to complete daily whole service cleaning. Inspectors observed the premises to be cleaned appropriately. The outdoor area had been suitably repaired and maintained.

Non-Compliance Information

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(e)

1. The inspectors observed that the water from the taps in both children's toilets for the preschool classrooms, on the first floor of the main building was cold and not comfortable for the children to wash their hands.
2. On the first floor there were only 2 children's toilets provided for the total of 26 preschool children on day 1 and 25 preschool children on day 2 of the inspection which is not in line with infection control guidance for pre-schools. It is acknowledged that an additional 2 children's toilets were located further down the corridor, however access to these toilets by the children was blocked by a secured metal gate.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The observations made during inspection have been addressed, and staff ensure that water is run prior to use so that children have access to warm water for handwashing. Water is checked throughout the day as part of normal routines to ensure it remains suitable for handwashing.
2. The gate is part of the building safety layout and remains in place due to the presence of stairs in the corridor area. Access is not restricted in practice. When children require the use of the additional toilets, staff supervise and escort children to ensure safe and timely access. Staff support children in accessing the additional toilet facilities as part of the daily routine, ensuring safe and timely access when required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Communication with staff.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified has been responded to. Implementation will be reviewed on next inspection.