

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DL022
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Churchill Community Childcare.
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Patton Memorial Hall, Trentagh, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	F92 R592
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Linda Anderson
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	21/01/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, St. Conal's Campus, Kilmacrennan Road, Letterkenny, Donegal F95 XK94
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Niamh McEndoo
<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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Churchill Community Childcare is an early years' service situated in the rural district of Trentagh between Churchill village and Letterkenny town in County Donegal. The service which has been in operation since 1997 is governed by Churchill Childcare Ltd, a non-profit local community group. The sessional service is provided for children aged 2 – 6 years. The service operates weekdays from 09.30 – 12:30pm for the duration of the pre-school year. The service operates from the local parish hall for which it has sole use during the hours of operation. The main hall is used to provide a spacious playroom which has adjoining kitchen and sanitary facilities. There is no specific outdoor play area. Children have occasional nature trips to the adjacent grassy sloped area on the parish hall grounds.

### Staffing

There are always two adults on the premises. The registered provider and a second adult, work directly with the children. There is one further adult available to provide emergency cover if required.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16 1(a), 19 1(a), 25, and 28, however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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 registered provider, 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*
- (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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider ensured that.

- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was 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.

(2)

On the day of inspection, two adults were present; the registered provider and one adult who also worked directly with the children.

The following vetting information was available for three adults:

- (a) Three written validated references from past employers for two of the adults.
- (b) Three written validated references from reputable sources for two of the adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for three adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(4)

Two of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework.

## 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)-*

*(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)  
The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(3)  
The registered provider ensured that on the day of inspection, the adult to child ratio was always maintained at the minimum specified ratios.

(8)  
(a) The registered provider of the service ensured that there were always at least 2 adults on the premises.

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

#### Compliance Information

(1)

- (a) A record in writing containing, staff names, positions, and qualifications was held on file for all adults working within the service.
- (i) A staff roster was available and outlined details of the staff on a daily basis.

### 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)

On the day of inspection, the preschool room was well organised. The room was divided into various interest areas including, a home corner, small world, construction, shop, sensory, arts and crafts and a cosy reading and rest area. It was well resourced with ample materials suited to the children's age and stage of development. Three tables offered activities that supported fine motor skills. The tables gave the children a choice between free and structured play. Children were observed to move independently around the room.

The adults interacted kindly with children, supporting and listening to them throughout the morning. They comforted two children who became upset at different times by listening and reassuring them. They engaged in conversations during morning roll call, snack time and circle time, allowing children to lead discussions.

The adults posed open-ended questions throughout the more formal discussions surrounding sharing of toys and tidying up. Independent thinking and self-reflection were always encouraged.

During circle time, the adults guided conversation on healthy foods, prompting children to reflect on the differing food types. To support the discussion, the adults used toy foods with a large wooden pyramid. The children took turns to place food on the pyramid. Children had to think for themselves about the different types of food; healthy food, treats, and where on the pyramid the food would be placed.

A structured indoor exercise activity was observed in the form of songs with movement and dance actions.

Children were observed to have the option of using the indoor balanced beam, further catering for gross motor development. The adults assisted and encouraged the children on the beam when required.

### 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for three adults. However, the vetting disclosures for one adult was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. Adults were observed to use non-lidded cups with hot liquid in the vicinity of children, posing a risk of scalding to a child if spilled.
3. Grapes in children's lunch boxes were observed to be whole. Grapes are to be cut in half to reduce the risk of the child choking.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting has been renewed. Garda vetting will be checked every year to make sure they are up to date for both staff and emergency cover.
2. Flask thermos, cold to the touch cups have been bought. The two newly purchased flasks for staff will be on the premises at all times.

3. Letter to parents requesting grapes to be cut lengthways issued again. Within the Parents Policy pack, under Healthy Lunches section, it states grapes are to be cut lengthways. This warning will be HIGHLIGHTED in the policy pack.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Evidence of Checklist submitted. Evidence of up-to-date Garda Vetting submitted.
2. Evidence of flasks submitted.
3. Evidence of parent communication submitted.

### Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been reviewed. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately 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)

On the day of inspection, the registered provider ensured that a member of staff was trained in first aid for children (FAR) and was available to children attending the service.

(2)

(b) The first aid equipment was readily available if a child required first aid treatment.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a) A suitably equipped labelled first aid box was stored in the kitchen area, however on inspection several items had expired.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)

- (a) Items purchased for First Aid Box and a checklist drawn up for the manager to update every 6 months.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)

- (a) Photographic evidence and copy of checklist submitted.

## Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been reviewed. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 25 have been adequately addressed.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured adequate insurance was in place for the preschool service for 22 children in a sessional service up until 28 March 2025.