

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DL055
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Name of Service:	Ionad Curam Paistí t/a Spraio Le Chéile
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Address of Service:	Carnmore Road, Dungloe, Co. Donegal
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Eircode:	F94 Y657
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Name of Registered Provider:	Suzanne Nic Géidí
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	12/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	50	PM	50
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	K Folan & L Costello
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

Spraoi le Cheile is a not for profit, community run service located in Dungloe in Donegal. The service is registered to provide full day, part time and sessional preschool to children aged 0-6 years from 08.00 to 18:00 from Monday to Friday. There is a school age service onsite. The premises consists of a two-story purpose-built premises. There are four playrooms in total, the baby and toddler rooms are on the ground floor and there are two preschool rooms plus a staff room on the first floor. There are two designated sleep rooms adjoined to both the baby and toddler rooms. The premises has its own kitchen, where children's main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. An office, sanitary accommodation, and storage facilities are also on the ground floor. A fully enclosed outdoor play area surrounds the front and side of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider is not on the premises on a daily basis. There is a named person in charge and there is a named designated deputy in charge. There is a total of 20 staff members currently working in the service. This includes eighteen adults working directly with preschool children and two kitchen staff. On the day of the inspection, three students were also present. There was one adult on an employment activation scheme.

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/ premises and facilities*. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23,25 and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 27. 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 inspectors wish 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*
- (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) (a)

There was a named person in charge and a person available to deputise as required.

(1) (b)

Both the named persons in charge and deputy person in charge were on the premises when the inspectors arrived and remained on the premises throughout the period of the inspection. A review of the staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or deputy person in charge were rostered to be on the premises during the hours of operation.

(1) (c)

The person in charge confirmed that there was a clear line of authority within the service.

The records of all 22 adults including the registered provider employed and 2 students in the service were reviewed.

(2)(a) Thirty-three written references from previous employers were available for twenty of the adults.

(2)(b) Eight written references from reputable sources were available for five of the adults.

(2) (c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 24 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. Garda vetting was not required for one student who was under the age of 18 years.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a) (b)

1. Five references had no evidence of validation.
2. There were no second reference on file for five of the adults.
3. One adult had no references on file.

(2) (d)

International police vetting was available for three adults who had resided outside of the state for a period of six consecutive months or more as an adult, however there was no police vetting on file for one adult who required it.

(4)

Seventeen adults had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement. However, there was no qualification held on file for one adult who required it.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1.
All references have been obtained and verified.
2.
International police vetting is now on file.
3.
Qualifications of staff have been added to the staff files.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence.

2. Photographic evidence.
3. Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

Compliance Information

- (1)
- On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.
- (4) On the morning and afternoon of the inspection the following ratios were observed:
- In the Baby room, 3 adults cared for 5 children aged 8 months to 1 year.
 - In the Toddler room, 3 adults cared for 13 children aged between 1 year and 6 months and three years of age.
 - In the ECCE 1 room, 3 adults cared for 11 children aged between 2 years and 6 months and 3 years of age.
 - In the ECCE 2 room, 3 adults cared for 21 children aged 3 to 5 years of age.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(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)(b)

Basic Need

- The service provides all meals and snacks to the children in part time and full day care. All food is freshly prepared on site, and a three-week menu was available.
- On the day of the inspection, breakfast was cereal with milk, morning snack was melon, orange and toast. Dinner was chicken curry with vegetables and rice. Evening snack was toasted ham and cheese sandwiches.
- Staff informed the inspector that alternatives were available should a child refuse food for any reason, although this was not required on the day.
- In the baby room, suitable meals for the ages and stages of each child were catered for.
- Fresh drinking water was available to the children in each room throughout the day.
- Nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently when required.
- Children who were toilet training were supported and assisted by the staff.
- In the baby room, children were placed for sleep according to their own needs and schedule.
- On the day of the inspection, the toddler room, ECCE 1 and ECCE 2 had access to the outdoor environment.

Supporting relationships

- The service has a key worker system in place with each staff member assigned a group of children to form close relationships with.

- Staff informed the inspector that communication with parents takes place at drop off and pick up times, and via telephone if necessary.
- Staff were observed interacting respectfully with the children and speaking kindly to them. For example, when minor disagreements occurred, staff sensitively intervened in a timely manner to resolve the issue.
- In each room, children’s family pictures were displayed to foster a sense of identity and belonging for each child.

Physical and material environment

The baby room was bright and spacious, with floor to ceiling windows that allowed natural light into the room.

The room was neatly organised to allow for clear floor space for the babies to crawl, roll and walk.

Age-appropriate interest toys to develop a baby’s senses were available to the children such as music toys, rattles, light up toys and soft plush toys. For children who were already mobile, there was a “shop”, a “tool bench” along with some toys to aid early walkers.

Soft matting and cushions were available for children who were learning to sit up unsupported.

The ECCE 2 room contained interest areas to cater to a child’s areas of development. For imaginative play, a large, life like wooden kitchen with real pots, utensils and crockery was available. Small world play items such as doll houses, garages and airports were available. There were ample resources for the number of children in the room which were arranged in accessible boxes for the children to choose from such as plastic construction pieces, magnet games, dinosaurs, puzzles, jigsaws and plastic bricks. A book area with a wooden covered “den area” was available for the children who required a quiet space or to have a rest. On the day of the inspection, children engaged in a craft activity of making bracelets.

The ‘toddler room’ provided a large open space to allow for free movement and gross motor skill development. Interest areas in the care room included home corners with kitchen and resources, shop and dress up area. Arts and crafts were provided to promote creativity. A large storage room was stocked with an array of resources including tabletop activities, puzzles, jig saws and fine motor toys. An array of soft toys, dolls and cars and trucks was also provided. The toddler room had direct access to an

outdoor space with an astro ground surface that was not in use on the day of the inspection. The toddlers were observed to spend time in the outdoors at the rear of the property.

The 'ECCE1' room is on the first floor of the building and presents as a large colourful space. One area of the care room is set up for sensory stimulation with an array of sensory toys, soft furnishings and materials to provide an area for children to relax and provided a place of calm. Other interest areas include home corners, construction areas and a library. Open low-level shelving provides baskets of puzzles, magnets, building blocks and puzzles to allow children to direct their own sense of play. The children in this room also have access to the sand and water area adjacent to 'ECCE 2' and use this space at scheduled times throughout the day.

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 main entrance was found to be secured on arrival preventing unauthorised access or exit from the premises.
- Materials and equipment were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C in each of the sanitary areas.
- The outdoor areas were secured with tall fencing and a restricted entry gate.
- Radiator surface temperatures were below 50° celcius.
- The air temperatures in each care room were within the required range of 18-22° Celsius.
- Care plans for children with medical needs were available in the service.
- Children with allergies were identified by the service with alternative food items available.
- Cleaning materials were safely stored out of children's reach.

- Garda vetting was available for two staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Leak proof foot operated pedalled nappy disposal bins were provided in the nappy changing area.
- Cleaning schedules were up to date and available to review.
- The sanitary facilities were ventilated by mechanical ventilation and open windows.

Administration of Medication:

- No medicine was administered on the day of inspection; however, staff advised the inspector of the correct procedure to be followed in the event of a child requiring medicine.
- Records of previously administered medication were available for review, and the correct details were recorded.

Safe Sleep:

- Cots were available for all children under the age of two years of age.
- Cot mattresses were fitted with waterproof covers and had the correct safety mark.
- Physical sleep checks were carried out every 10 minutes on sleeping children.
- Sleep records were correctly maintained with the child's name, sleep position, breathing pattern and skin colour recorded.
- The temperature in the sleep room was monitored to ensure it was within the correct range of 16-20° Celsius.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Leads and flexes were not secured in a safe manner and posed a safety risk to the preschool child as follows:
 - In the toddler room, leads from a CD player and heater and phone were loosely hanging accessible to the preschool child.
 - In the ECCE 1 room an air conditioning unit stored on a window had a loose lead accessible to preschool children.

2. Garda vetting was available for two staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Infection Control:

1. In the baby and toddler nappy changing area, one of the nappy changing mats was torn, exposing the foam therefore it could not adequately be cleaned, posing a risk of cross infection to children.
2. In the sanitary accommodation of ECCE 2 room, blue paper towels were loosely stored on top of a shelf, posing a risk of cross contamination and reducing the effectiveness of handwashing.
3. There was no liquid soap available for handwashing in the ECCE 2 nappy changing area.
4. After nappy changing, children's hands were not routinely washed.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Leads and flexes have been secured.
2. Garda Vetting has been renewed.

Infection Control:

1. A new mat has been purchased.
2. Hand drying towels are now secured.
3. Liquid soap purchased.
4. Children's hands are now washed after nappy changing.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Documentary evidence.
2. Documentary evidence.
3. Documentary evidence.
4. Documentary evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

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)

Fourteen adults were trained First Aid Responders (FAR) in the service and at least one adult was available to the children at all times during the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two suitably equipped first aid boxes available in the service. The first aid boxes were stored in an easily accessible position.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-

(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A record of fire drills carried out in the service was available with the most recent fire drill 22 January 2026.

(1)(b) Records were available to evidence that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 19 September 2025 and smoke alarms were serviced on 21 January 2026.

(4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in the hallway of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

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

Non-Compliance Information

Contrary to TUSLA 'Guidance for the early learning and care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months', children under 24 months sleeping on stackable floor beds were not supervised appropriately as no adult remained in the room while the children slept in the 'Toddler room' on the afternoon of the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All stackable beds are now placed in the main playroom and only cots are kept in the sleep room. Staff are made aware that if children require stackable bed, supervision must be maintained.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.