

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DL078
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Manorcunningham Community Child Care Centre Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ray, Manorcunningham, Co. Donegal
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<b>Eircode:</b>	F92 EK81
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Olivia Murray
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	06/02/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	n/a
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. 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

Manorcunningham Community Childcare Centre Ltd been in operation since 1999. It is situated in the town of Manorcunningham in County Donegal. It is registered to provide a part-time day care service for children aged 2 – 6 years. The service operates from 8.45 – 13.45 weekdays which includes a morning sessional service. The service operates from a single storey, purpose-built premises which lies adjacent to the local health centre. There are two large indoor playrooms, an office, kitchen and sanitary accommodation for adults and children. There is a spacious outdoor play area to the rear of the building with direct access from both playrooms.

### Staffing

A total of four adults were employed in the service at the time of inspection. This included a manager, and three adults. Each adult worked directly with children and held the required level of qualification. A student was also present on the day. The registered provider did not work directly in the service.

### 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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 21, 25, 27 and 28. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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, 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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, five adults were present; the person in charge, three members of staff who worked directly with the children, and one student on placement.

The following vetting information was available for five adults:

- (a) 10 written validated references from past employers for five of the adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all five adults.

(3)

Procedures specified in paragraph 2 were carried out prior to any adult being allowed access or contact with the children attending the preschool service.

(4)

Four 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, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

## 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:*

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

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

*(4) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises by a parent or guardian of a child but only in respect of information concerning that child.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

(k) The registered provider had a record in writing of all accidents and incidents occurring in the service.

(3)

The registered provider ensured that these records of accidents and incidents were available for review by the authorised person.

(4)

A sample review of these records demonstrated that parents have been informed of accidents and incidents and any follow up action taken only in relation to their child.

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

(2)  
The registered provider ensured that on the day of inspection, the adult to child ratio was always maintained at the minimum specified ratios.

### 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 19 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service operated from two large rooms, the Butterfly room and the Sunflower room. There were adequate and suitable play facilities available for the age range and stage of development of children. An ample supply of resources and equipment was available, these included: arts and crafts, construction, small world items, dress up props, play kitchen areas, library with relaxing areas, sensory tables, and problem-solving materials. Both rooms were resourced with age-appropriate furniture, child sized tables and chairs, and low level accessible shelving which housed tabletop activities.  
  
The large outdoor area was equipped with a large wooden climbing apparatus, a smaller climbing unit with slide and two sheltered areas, one of which housed some play equipment. Sand pits with covers were also available. There was a well-kept grassed area, pebbled pathways and a large, tarmacked area for use with ride-ons. The indoor and the outdoor areas offered various opportunities for learning and imaginative play while supporting both fine and gross motor movement.
  - (b) Both the Butterfly room and Sunflower room featured a suitable and comfortable rest area located beside the library, complete with soft rugs and child size chairs, creating a cozy and inviting space for relaxation.

### 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)

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

(b) A suitably equipped labelled first aid box was stored in each of the preschool rooms.

### 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

During the inspection, the required ratio of qualified adults to children was consistently maintained, ensuring that every child was under the supervision of a qualified staff member. The staff were observed positioning and engaging themselves in play areas allowing for supportive and attentive supervision. During mealtime staff closely monitored the children by sitting with them at the table, fostering interactions and giving a sense of comfort. Although inclement weather prevented outdoor play on the day, the area was thoughtfully designed to ensure that the children can be kept within sight and sound of the staff.

### 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 32 children in a preschool service up until 27 March 2025.