

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS190
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Name of Service:	An Cosán Early Years Kiltipper
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Address of Service:	29 Deerpark Drive, Kiltipper, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 CP04
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Genockey
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	31/01/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	N/A.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, DO8X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	R Phillips, N Ruddy
Title:	Early Years Inspector, Inspection & Registration Manager

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	Click or tap here to enter text.
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Description of service

An Cosán, Kiltipper is a community-based service run by The Shanty Educational Project Ltd. It is located in a purposely adapted two story building in a residential area of Tallaght. There is an outdoor play area at the rear of the building. This service provides sessional childcare, participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme for children from 2-6 years of age and operates from Monday to Friday from 08:45-12:15hrs 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

There are four adults employed in the service. The service manager works directly with the children and two other childcare practitioners. One of whom is funded by the Department of Children Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, as part of the access and inclusion model scheme. A fourth adult is employed as a parent support facilitator and also works with the children in her role as deputy person in charge.

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 and Safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15.

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 registered provider, 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.

(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)(a) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure evident in the service.

(2) All four staff files were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b) The following references were made available in respect of the files reviewed:

Eight references from previous employers had been validated.

(2)(c) Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all four staff. They were dated within the last three years in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorates regulatory notice that requires registered providers to reapply for Garda vetting for all staff within a three-year timeframe.

(2)(d) International police vetting was available for one staff member who had worked outside the Irish jurisdiction for 6 months or longer as an adult.

(3) The procedures specified above were carried out prior to any person being appointed.

(4) Each employee working directly with the children holds a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Qualifications 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.

Compliance Information

(1) There was an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the preschool service at all times during the inspection.

(3) The adult to child ratio surpassed the minimum requirement in the service. There were three adults working directly with the twelve children in attendance.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of 10 records for children were reviewed. The information required was documented as outlined below:
- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
 - (b) The date when each child first attended the service.
 - (c) A section was available for recording the date when the child ceases attending.
 - (d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
 - (e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child.
 - (f) Medical information, allergies, dietary preferences, additional needs, and other information specific to the child.

- (g) The name and telephone number of the child’s medical practitioner.
 - (h) Immunisation details.
 - (i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.
- (3)(c) The above records were made readily available for 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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic needs:

The service promotes a healthy eating programme, the children were observed eating healthy foods at snack time. Water was available to them throughout the morning. The staff sat with the children while they ate engaging in conversation and reading to the children as they enjoyed their food in a relaxed atmosphere. A suitable sanitary area adjacent to the care room was available to the children to use independently under the supervision of the staff. A suitable nappy changing facility was also available for those children requiring same.

Supporting Relationships:

It is evident that this service has developed a strong partnership with parents. Children and parents were welcomed into the service, and inspectors observed a friendly relaxed atmosphere. Staff profiles were displayed with photos, qualifications and continuous professional development certificates, for parents and visitors to see. Child profile forms gave staff information about individual likes and dislikes and daily routine and family. In conversation with the staff and observation, it was apparent that their knowledge of the children’s needs likes dislikes and home life informed their care. Staff made contact directly with a child’s parent who had been unsettled but who had settled with support from the staff. Children spent the first few minutes of the day sharing their news, facilitated by the staff to settle according to their individual needs. The “Our family Wall” area at the children’s eye level in which they could see their families when utilising the rest area, facilitated a connection from home life to preschool. The staff members displayed warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children.

Materials and Equipment:

The large care room facilitated supervision of the children and was bright and comfortable and incorporated a puppet theatre, library or relaxing area, with books and soft cushions. There were ample toys and play equipment available to the children on accessible low-level shelving. Two separate sets of low-level tables and chairs were available for group activities and eating meals. A sand pit and water table were used to enjoy sensory play. There were easels and paints, crayons, pencils and aprons. There was a construction area, home corner, dress up area, with outfits at children's eye level and a dressing table with real world objects in many interest areas.

The outdoor area had artificial grass and soft fall material, was safe and secure with a climbing structure.

Programme of Activities:

Plans for activities based on children's emerging interests was facilitated in the service as evidenced by the children taking a few minutes in the morning to sit in smaller groups and plan their days activities and choices using picture boards. The Inspector also observed plans documented by staff earlier in the week.

Individual child led care was evident in this service, with individual learning plans for the current developmental stage of each child, as well as individual inclusion plans to promote each child's learning and development.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) The manager of the service and a member of staff held in date First aid response (FAR) training. A person with FAR training was scheduled to be present and available to the children attending the service at all times when the service is operating.

(2)(a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and easily accessible to the staff in a conspicuous location within the service.

(b) The first aid box was available to the adults and the children in the service at all times.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
- (c) an authorised person.*
- (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 written record was available of the fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill recorded was undertaken on the 08/01/ 2025.
- (1)(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the firefighting equipment were dated 04/10/2024, and 06/11/2024 for the smoke alarms.
- (2) The records referred to in paragraph (1) were available for inspection.
- (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location.