

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY042		
Name of Service:	Caroline's Playschool		
Address of Service:	6 Templeview Court, Clarehall, Dublin 17.		
Eircode:	D13 R23S		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sarah Breen		
Service type:	Part Time		
Date of Inspection:	25/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM 6
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K		
Inspection undertaken by:	C.Kerrigan		
Title:	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).			
Conditions if applicable	Not applicable.		

Description of service

Coroline's Playschool is a privately run service which is located in a converted residential premises in Dublin 17. The service runs from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am and 2pm and is involved in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The service operates from a large care room to the rear of the residential property. Sanitary facilities are located off the care room. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider employs three early years workers to provide direct care to the children in the service. The registered provider works in a relief capacity within the service. The registered provider and two early years workers were present on the day of inspection.

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. 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, 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*
- (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*
- (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) The registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that the person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The files of all four adults working within the service were reviewed in full on the day of inspection.
 - (a) The registered provider ensured that five written and validated references were available from a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that three written and validated references were available from a person other than a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
 - (c) The registered provider ensured that Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the four adults working directly with the children. The service also demonstrated adherence to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that all references and Garda vetting procedures were completed prior to the four adults being allowed access to contact with the children attending the preschool service.
- (4) A review of all four staff qualifications indicated that eleven adults who work directly with children held a major award at Level 5 or higher in early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualification Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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.*
- (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 an adequate number of adults were working with the children in the service at all times throughout the day of inspection. Three early years practitioners were available in the building to meet the care needs of sixteen children who were present on the day of inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the adult to child ratios were maintained within the service on the day of inspection. This was further evidenced in the staff sign in sheets.
- (8)
- (a) A review of the staff roster and conversation with adults present on the day indicated that the registered provider ensured that there were two adults present during the operational hours of the service.

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) The registered provider ensured the children's learning, development and wellbeing was facilitated in the service, for example.

Basic Needs:

- Throughout the children's time in the service, the children were provided with regular snacks which were prepared at home and brought into the service. On the day of inspection children were observed to eat a selection of hot and cold foods, consisting of sandwiches with meat and cheese, yogurts, crackers, variety of fruits cut to developmentally appropriate sizes and hot vegetable curry. Children who were observed to not have any lunch were given a selection of foods prepared within the service. Children drank from individual water bottles. Mealtimes were observed to be a social and pleasurable experience for the children at a pace that suited their individual needs.
- There was a rest area in the care room if children wished to engage in more restful activities.
- Children who were toilet trained were observed to have unrestricted access to the toilet, with staff promptly picking up on cues and the need for assistance.
- Children who were settling into the service were observed to be treated in an individualistic and respectful manner with adults in the service upholding the children's dignity by offering physical comfort, reassurance and distraction when appropriate at a pace that suited the child, contacting parents when a child became distressed.

Supporting Relationships

- The adults in the service were observed to support children in expressing and cope positively with their emotions, staff were observed to take time to listen to children in a caring and gentle manner throughout the

inspection. The atmosphere of acceptance and respect enabled children to develop individual coping strategies with the guidance and support of the adults present.

- The adults in the service were observed to speak to each other in a professional and warm manner, working as a team to meet the changing needs of the children.
- Adults in the service reported that the service operates an open-door policy, communicating with adults within the service at drop off and collection times.

Physical and Material Environment

- The furniture in the room was low level and appropriate for the children attending, with toys , equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- Although the beginning of the school year children’s artwork and images of their families were displayed throughout the room which promoted a sense of identity and belonging.
- A small outdoor area was accessible via the care room and consisted of artificial surface underfoot, a sensory mulch pit, a sensory tray, a slide and cause and effect wall activities and differing sizes stepping stones.

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 to the service was secured upon the inspectors unannounced arrival at the service. Access was granted via a doorbell system in which a staff member answered. Therefore, preventing access to the children from unauthorised persons.
- Hazardous materials such as cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The ambient room temperatures within the service were kept between the recommended 18 and 22°C.
- There were no trailing flexes accessible to children within the service.
- Temperature reducing medication were available for use and stored securely within the service.
- The outdoor area was fully secured with high walls and fencing. This was accessed via the care room.

Infection Control:

- The service was clean and well maintained throughout. Cleaning schedules were on display throughout the service outlining the frequency of cleaning.
- Lunch and snacks prepared at home and brought into the service were refrigerated until required, preventing harmful bacterial growth.
- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were in use throughout the service for hand washing purposes, ensuring good hand washing practises.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication is not routinely given to children within the service however staff demonstrated knowledge on the procedure for medication administration if required.

Fire Safety:

- First exits were observed to be clearly lit and unobstructed during the inspection.
- Children attending the service were signed in promptly upon arrival and collection within the service.

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

- (2)
- (a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position within the premises.
 - (b) The first aid box was readily available to the adults caring for the children attending the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider did not ensure that a persons trained in First Aid Response were available to the children at all times during the operational hours of the service. It is acknowledged that the staff present had an up to date paediatric first aid certificate.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) The registered provider stated that a staff member attended and successfully completed FAR training the day after the inspection. Their FAR certificate has been added to the staff training file. The roster has been reviewed and updated to ensure a FAR trained staff member is always present during service. Training records will be reviewed each term to make sure they are up to date. In future renewals will be scheduled at least four weeks in advance of any lapse. Should the budget allow FAR will be offered to every staff member. The person in charge will check the weekly rota to confirm FAR coverage at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions submitted by the registered provider have been sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 25 (1).

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.*
- (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) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept in writing of fire drills within the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated the 1 September 2025.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that a record was available indicating the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment with records demonstrating it was last serviced on the 25 November 2024 and the number type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms throughout the service, these were last serviced on the 25 November 2024.

- (2)
- (c) The registered provider ensured that the fire drill and maintenance records were available for review by the Inspector, these were displayed in the care room.
- (4) A notice of procedures was clearly displayed throughout the service indicating the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.

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 that the premises was insured as a part-time day care service for the maximum number of children registered. The certificate reviewed had an expiry date of 27th of March 2026.