

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY076
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Name of Service:	An Cosán Early Years - Colaiste Eanna
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Address of Service:	Colaiste Eanna, Kilkiernan Road, Cabra, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D07 TW42
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Genockey
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	09/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	16
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford and E Saini
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

An Cosán Early Years – Colaiste Eanna service is a community-based childcare located in an urban area in Dublin 7. There are two care rooms, the Daisy room and the Ladybird/Preschool room, an office, a sleep room, sanitary facilities, nappy changing facility and a kitchen within the service. The service offers full day-care childcare to children aged from two years to five years old, from 8.45am to 2pm Monday to Friday

Staffing

The registered provider employs 6 staff to work in the service to include the person in charge and five childcare staff. On the day of inspection, a relief staff member from another An Cosán service was present to provide assistance in the care rooms.

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 9,11,19,23,25,26 and 29.

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

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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*

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(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced and was present for the duration of the inspection.

The staff files for the registered provider, person in charge, deputy person in charge and four staff members had been reviewed on a previous inspection and deemed compliant. The file of one staff member providing additional support in the care rooms was reviewed.

(2)

(a) Not applicable as no references were from a past employer.

(b) Two validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider, person in charge, deputy person in charge, four staff members and the staff member providing additional support in the care rooms were reviewed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was not required as on review of available documentation it was confirmed that the staff member providing additional support in the care rooms had not resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) The staff member providing additional support in the care rooms had documentation available to demonstrate that they held 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.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as follows:

Daisy room - 3 adults working with 8 children aged between 2 to 3 years.

Preschool room/ Ladybird room - 1 adult working with 8 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

The person in charge was present in a supportive role for breaks and transitions.

(8)(a) On discussion with staff it was confirmed that two adults are always present in 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)

Basic Needs:

- Children attending the service were provided with a morning snack of crackers with butter and sliced apple and a hot meal of tomato sauce with pasta and grated cheese at lunch time with staff observed sitting with the children and engaging in conversation in a friendly and relaxed manner. Staff were familiar

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with the children and their individual food preferences. A choice of water or milk was available to drink at mealtimes and drinks were stored in an accessible position while the children played.

- Children were supported and assisted with toilet visits and staff were observed to engage with the children in a positive manner during conversations and transitions.
- The children appeared comfortable and confident in their environments and were familiar with the daily routine and activities.

Physical and Material Environment

- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment available to them. Low level shelving and child sized furniture supported children's independence in the care rooms.
- The care rooms were bright and inviting spaces with children's artwork, family pictures and birthdays clearly displayed for the children to see.
- Rest areas were present in the rooms offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The outdoor area used by the children was equipped with space for running and games, equipment for digging and planting, scooters and bikes, balance beams and balls.

Supporting Relationships around children:

- Staff were observed engaging with the children in a positive and relaxed manner. Children were guided with clear instructions with reinforcement and encouragement given when required. Any minor disputes between the children were dealt with fairly by staff who gave explanations and explained boundaries to the children.
- Verbal engagement and communication was held with parents at drop off and collection with staff updating them on their child's day to include meals eaten and developmental achievements.
- Planned activities in the care rooms were observed to be child led which promoted each child's independence and preference to undertake activities at their pace and interest.
- Staff in the care rooms worked well together in supporting the children and providing child led care materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present.

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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 premises and outdoor play areas were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people from gaining access to the service.
- The care rooms were observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents, sharp implements, and flexes out of reach.
- Staff maintained a daily record of each child's arrival and departure to the service.

Infection Control:

- Adequate hand-washing facilities were available in the sanitary facilities used by the children, these included water, liquid soap, paper towels and bins.
Children were supported to wash their hands before snack and after using the toilet.
- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition throughout, with the premises and equipment observed to be visually clean

Fire Safety:

- Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed in the service. The designated fire exits were illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection

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.*

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Compliance Information

(1) The service provided evidence that two staff were trained in First Aid Response was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2)

(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each classroom.

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 written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 26 February 2026.

(b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating they were last serviced in October 2025.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

A yearly record was not available to demonstrate that smoke alarms in the service are serviced on a regular basis to ensure their effectiveness in the event of a fire. The last recorded maintenance took place on the 15 January 2025.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

(1)(b)

In response to the non-compliance the service has stated that they have engaged with a company to undertake regular inspections and complete an inspection to ensure that all smoke alarms and emergency lighting are compliant and this carried out 21/04/2026. The date of next service due is scheduled.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(b)

Smoke Alarm and Emergency Lighting Certificates attached and service calendar.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider regarding Regulation 26 were reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

(d) In the smaller outdoor area used by the children, the join between where the artificial grass surface meets the artificial soft ground surface had separated and was observed to be in a bad state of repair.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d) In response to the non-compliance the service has stated that 20th April 2026, astro turf has been fixed to fill the gap and attached securely with pegs. This will be monitored daily to ensure it stays in place, as part of the daily outdoor checklist. The service is looking into accessing funding for permanent resurfacing of the garden.

Supporting documentation submitted

(d) Photo attached

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Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider regarding Regulation 29 were reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate.