

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY272
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Name of Service:	Cherryorchard Community Childcare Service Ltd
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Address of Service:	Croftwood Crescent, Cherry Orchard, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D10 YV32
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Name of Registered Provider:	William Mangan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/06/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	77	PM	40
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty and R Brien
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Cherry Orchard Community Childcare Services Ltd. is a not-for-profit childcare service operated by the registered provider located in an urban setting in Southwest Dublin. A service is provided to children aged 0 to 6 years. The service is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.00pm. The premises is located in a purpose-built service with nine care rooms, a sensory room, kitchen, office and associated sanitary accommodation. An outdoor area was available to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are twenty-seven staff employed by the service including the service manager, deputy, inclusion co-ordinator and a cook. There were also two staff members present who were part of a community employment scheme. On the day of inspection there were twenty-nine adults present. The registered provider was not present and does not work in the service. The manager facilitated the 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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

- Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment,
- Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels,
- Regulation 16 - Record in relation to pre-school service,
- Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
- Regulation 23 - Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
- Regulation 25 – First Aid,
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations 19 and 23. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the following care rooms:

Baby Room, Wobbler Room, Toddler 1 and 2, Little Preschool and Preschool 1 rooms.

A sample of administration of medication and accident forms were also reviewed.

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

(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

The manager stated that six adults and one community employment scheme participant had been employed since the last inspection dated 29th May 2024. The files of these adults were reviewed as part of this inspection as follows:

(2)(a)(b)

Ten references from a past employer and four references from a source other than a past employer were available in respect of the seven adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all seven adults. Renewed Garda vetting was also reviewed for twenty-three adults who were still employed in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed.

(d) International police vetting was available for one adult who required it.

(3)

The service demonstrated that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any person commencing in the service.

(4)

Records were available that demonstrated that the adults who required a qualification held the minimum qualification.

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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children. There were seventy-seven children being supervised by twenty-six adults on the day of inspection.

(2)

The minimum adult to child ratios were maintained on inspection.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (h) Children’s attendance was recorded in each care room.
- (i) A roster was available in the service.
- (j) A sample size of ten administration of medication forms were reviewed and contained the necessary information to authorise and administer medication to a child should it be required.
- (k) A sample size of ten accident and incident forms were reviewed; the necessary information and details were recorded and complete.

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-

- (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

The inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection.

The service provided breakfast, snacks, a hot meal, and an afternoon tea to the children. All children were supported to eat independently during meals, and staff provided assistance to children where required. Bibs were worn in younger care rooms to protect the children’s clothes from becoming soiled or wet when eating. Drinking water was available in the care rooms at all times, water was offered to the children with each meal. Staff cleaned

children's faces after dinner. Older children were observed using the toilet independently and younger children wearing nappies were changed regularly and as required. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children, addressing them by name and making conversation. Staff demonstrated kindness and affection during interactions observed by the inspectors in most of the care rooms, and comfort was provided promptly if a child became upset.

Children's noses, hands and faces were cleaned when they became soiled. Care plans were available for some children as required and staff were familiar with them.

The play experiences in the service were observed to be child-led. Children were observed exploring their environment, engaged in activities and playing with each other and the staff. The children were all provided with the opportunity to play outdoors and were dressed appropriately to the weather.

The sleep room was relaxed and conducive to sleep. The children attending the Baby, Wobbler, Toddler and Little Preschool rooms were provided with an opportunity to sleep after their lunch and rest areas were available in all care rooms so children could relax or take time away from the group if required.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Although bibs were used during dinner time, two children were observed to be put to sleep with soiled and wet clothes. Staff did not remove or change these prior to sleep.
2. Throughout the morning of the inspection in the baby room 4 children were observed to have a soother in their mouth from 10.54am until after sleep. They did not appear distressed and when asked staff stated there was no reason for them to have them at all times. Prolonged use of soothers may inhibit language and oral motor development and prevent children from interacting with their peers.
3. There was no adult chair present in the room for adults to provide one to one care to children when bottle feeding. The children in the room were aged 1 year with some requiring bottle feeding at times throughout the day.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. We met with the staff in the baby room and went through the Tusla non-compliances. We updated the Food health, safety and nutrition policy. We had a staff meeting on Friday the 15th of August and went through all of the non-compliances and policy updates with the full staff team. We had a team meeting on the 15th of August 2025 and went through the Tusla report and the food health, safety & nutrition policy and all staff signed off on the policy.

2. We met with the staff in the baby room and went through the Tusla non-compliances. We also spoke with parents of the baby room about the use of soothers. We shared some information with them about soother use and weaning children away from soothers.
3. The baby room environment was redesigned for the new school year on the 15th of August 2025. There is now designated feeding areas along with adult chairs and a separate cosy area.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Updated policy and staff meeting minutes.
2. Staff meeting notes and HSE information on soother use.
3. Photos of room layout.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 19.

This regulation will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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 registered provider ensured the safety of the children as follows:

- Entry to the service was safely secure to prevent unauthorised access and children from leaving the area unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All toys and play equipment used by the children appeared to be in good condition.

Infection Control:

- Staff were observed to follow all the required infection control steps when completing nappy changing.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered once per week.

Administration of Medication:

- There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency.
- Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Safe Sleep:

- Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs.
- The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

- All fire exits were kept clear from obstruction.
- Regular fire drills took place in the service and staff detailed the procedures to follow in the event of a fire.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. An external gate used as a fire escape route was observed to be locked with a combination padlock. Although the manager stated that all staff are aware of the code, the safe evacuation of staff and children could be compromised in the event of an emergency.
2. A child in the baby room was observed to be propped up on cushions whilst drinking a bottle. This poses a risk of choking.

Infection Control:

Inspectors observed a number of practices which posed a risk of transmission of infection within the service:

2. All children's hands were not washed in the Baby room prior to dinner.
3. A child was observed with a soother on a chain attached to their clothes. The soother was observed to drag on the floor at times when the child was crawling. The child and a staff member were observed to put the soother in the child's mouth on multiple occasions without it being cleaned. This poses a risk of

cross contamination.

4. There was no shelving storage available in the baby room. Staff were observed to put a bowl of tuna onto the floor before serving the children at lunchtime and clean face cloths onto a piece of climbing equipment. This poses a risk of cross contamination.
5. Whilst giving tuna to children at dinner time a staff member was observed to use spoons the children were eating with to dish the tuna. A different spoon was used each time which posed a risk of cross contamination.
6. The lacquered surface and surround of two tables, one in the Wobbler room and another in the courtyard were water damaged and lifting away from the wood and could not be cleaned effectively.

Administration of Medication:

7. Emergency medication required for children in the Toddler 1 and 2 rooms and Preschool 1 room were not stored in their original packaging or with the medical instructions which could affect the safe and timely administration of the medication in the event of an emergency.

Safe Sleep:

8. Staff were observed to check sleeping children aged 1 by looking through a viewing panel. Visual checks are required as per Tusla Safe Sleep guidance. The service policy is required to be updated in line with safe sleep guidance.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A new keypad and fire safety system has been put onto the gate. The gate will now auto release in the case of a fire alarm. This information and the keypad code was shared with the staff team at the staff meeting on the 15th of August 2025.

Infection Control:

2. We met with the staff in the baby room and went through the infection control and handwashing policy. We had a team meeting on the 15th of August 2025 and went through the Tusla report and discussed the importance of infection control and handwashing and went through the infection control and handwashing and all staff signed off on the policy. We also updated our handwashing signs and posters across the centre.

3. We have banned the use of soother chains in the service. This was communicated with all parents on the 18th of August 2025. Our Infection Control Policy was updated to support this. Staff will be ensuring that soother chains are no longer in use in the service.
4. The baby room environment was redesigned for the new school year on the 15th of August 2025. There is now designated feeding areas, with a table, highchairs along with adult chairs. There is now a space for feeding in the Baby Room which includes a low table.
5. Discussion regarding noncompliance was held during our staff team meeting.
6. Two new tables were purchased for the Wobbler room. We discussed the importance of the daily risk assessments and flagging anything with the management team immediately

Administration of Medication:

7. We reviewed our medicine administration policy and paperwork with the full staff team. All inhalers were checked and parents were asked for original packaging and prescription for medication on site. We reviewed our medicine administration policy and paperwork with the full staff team at our team meeting.

Safe Sleep:

8. We updated our safe sleep policy to ensure it was clear that staff have to go into the sleep rooms to perform the physical checks in the baby room. We reviewed our safe sleep policy and paperwork with the full staff team at our team meeting.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photo of new locking system in place.

Infection Control:

2. Minutes of team meeting held on the 15th August 2025 and photos.
3. Minutes of team meeting.
4. Photos of new environment in the baby room.
5. Minutes of team meeting.
6. Invoices submitted of new equipment and furniture purchased.

Administration of Medication:

7. Minutes of team meeting and policy submitted.

Safe Sleep:

8. Minutes of team meeting and policy submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23.

This regulation will be reviewed on the next 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.

Compliance Information

(1)

A person trained in First Aid Responder is available to the children at all times.

(2)

(a)(b) First aid boxes were available and stored in a conspicuous position within the service.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A record in writing of fire drills was available for inspection. The last fire drill took place on the 23rd May 2025.
 - (b) A record of the servicing of the smoke alarms was available the last service took place on the 28th March 2025. The fire fighting equipment was last serviced on the 11th December 2024.