

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL076
Name of Service:	Corduff Childcare Service Ltd.
Address of Service:	Corduff Campus, Blackcourt Rd, Corduff, Dublin 15,
Eircode:	D15 FVY9
Name of Registered Provider:	Noeleen Keating
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
Date of Inspection:	01/05/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	51	PM	43
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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.
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Description of service

Corduff Childcare Service is a not-for-profit full day care service which is located in a purpose-built single-story premises in North Dublin. The service is registered to provide Early Childhood Care and Education for up to 64 children aged from 0-6 years. The service is open from 08:30 to 17:00, Monday to Friday, and provides full-time, part-time and sessional care and education. The service participates in the Early Childhood and Education (ECCE) programme for the 38 weeks of the year. The service is comprised of five care room, all of which were opened on the day of inspection, these included ; the Red Room which catered for children aged 1- 1year 7 months, the Yellow Room which catered for children aged 3 years, the Green Room which catered for children aged 2-3 years, the Purple Room which catered for children aged 3-4 years and the Blue Room which catered for children aged 4- 5 years. Two fully enclosed outdoor play areas were available, one runs along the side of the premises and the second to the rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 28 staff to work within the service. This includes the registered provider who is the service manager, twenty-three early years staff, an administrator, three staff employed under the community employment scheme.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under.

- Regulation 16 (j)(k) Record in relation to a pre-school service,
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of the Child.
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included The Purple Room, the Red Room and the Yellow Room.

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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider on the day of inspection under Regulation 23 in relation to an identified safety risk. A written response was received on the 2 May 2025 mitigating the significant risk. Further details are available under Regulation 23.

The service has completed a government led Quality Development Initiative.

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
- (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,
 - (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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.
 - (b) A review of the roster and conversation with staff on the day showed that a named person in charge is rostered to be on the premises at all times during the service opening hours.
- (2) A review of paperwork and conversation with management showed that two staff have commenced employment in the service since the last inspection in July 2024. The files of these staff along with the Garda Vetting of all staff who have direct access to children within the service were reviewed.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that four written and verified references were available from a past employer for the adults working within the service.

- (c) The registered provider ensured that garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the twenty-eight adults who in their role have access to children. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was not required as no adult had resided in a country other than Ireland for a period longer than six consecutive months.
- (3) All references and Garda Vetting procedures were completed prior to the two staff members being allowed access or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) The registered provider ensured that two staff employed and who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualification 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.*
- (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 an adequate number of adults were working with the children in the service at all times throughout the day. Eighteen early years staff were available in the building to meet the care needs of fifty-one 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.

(8) (a) The registered provider ensured that there were at least two adults on the premises at all times during the operational hours of the service. This was evidenced in the roster.

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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)

(k) A sample of ten accident and incident forms were reviewed; these were found to be fully completed with all necessary information included.

Non-Compliance Information

(i) The registered provider did not provide details of all staff who were rostered to work in the service on the day of inspection and did not include the times of work or break times of any staff member. This was a previous non-compliance noted in July 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has designed a new staff roster to include the morning and afternoon shifts. This roster includes start times and breaks for staff. This will be changed daily as needed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions submitted by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 16.

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 that the children's learning development and wellbeing is facilitated within the service in the following ways.

Basic Needs:

- The children were provided with regular lunch and snacks throughout their time in the service. Lunches and snacks were prepared at home and brought into the service. On the morning of the inspection children were observed to have a selection of sandwiches, various fruits appropriately cut, crackers, yogurts and cheese. Later a hot lunch was provided, which was brought in from home, reheated and served by staff. Alternative food options were available, with patterns in preferences discussed with parents. Children's individual water bottles were freely available to each child throughout the service. Mealtimes were observed to be a social and pleasurable experience for the children at a pace that best suited their needs.
- Nappy changing was not observed on the day of inspection however through conversation with staff nappy changing was undertaken on a scheduled basis and as needed. In the older care rooms toileting was undertaken on a scheduled basis and as needed, children were observed to have unrestricted access to the toilet with staff supervising and providing supportive cues in a child centred manner as needed.
- Children were provided with appropriate sun protection for outdoor play. Independence with self-care skills were promoted with children being encouraged to put on hats. This facilitates comfort in the play experiences and promotes independence.
- Positive child centred behaviour strategies were observed to be used by staff within the service, with staff demonstrating adaptability in their care practices, which reflected the changing needs of each child. For example, during the transition from play to mealtime a child showed signs of irritability and dysregulation,

staff used distraction and positive behaviour strategies to illicit a positive response however their behaviour escalated from refusal to engage in activities to crying. Staff showed an awareness for this child's individual needs and changed their scheduled plan to provide physical comfort and a safe area for rest with the child's personal comforter, promoting co-regulation practices.

Supporting Relationships

- A key worker system was in place in the service and key groups were displayed within the classrooms. A key worker system allows staff to develop in depth knowledge about the children in their group and fosters nurturing relationships helping children to feel confident.
- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a responsive, warm, respectful manner.
- Staff were observed to speak to each other in a respectful and warm manner.
- Staff reported that information such as toileting, food and sleep is shared with parents daily through conversation at drop off and collection.

Physical and Material Environment

- The furniture provided in the room was low level and appropriate for the children attending with equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- There was a range of equipment available to suit the developmental needs of each age group. These included water tables, mark making, a home corner with associated props to facilitate imaginative play experiences, stacking, building, connecting and threading toys to facilitate creative play, cars and tracks for transporting and books to facilitate language and early literacy development. Children in the younger care rooms had access to internal ball pits and sensory mats allowing for the development of gross motor and sensory play.
- A sensory room was also available to the children adjacent to the Purple room, this was available to be used for children when dysregulated.
- Images of the children and their families were displayed throughout the room which promoted a sense of identity and belonging.
- All children had access to an outdoor play environment throughout the day. This is scheduled but also available to the children if and when needed. The larger outdoor area had a large climbing frame, slides,

scooters, tunnels and grass underfoot planted in differing gradients. The small enclosed outdoor environment located along the side of the premises had absorbent flooring underfoot, sand kitchens, sensory trays, ride in cars, slides and balls giving an array of options to develop gross motor skills.

Non-Compliance Information

- The registered provider did not ensure that adequate sleep equipment in line with the 'Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months' was used for one child aged under two years on the day of inspection. The following was observed.
 - One child aged 16 months was observed to sleep on a floor mat which did not provide adequate support or comfort for a child this age.
 - There was no written individual sleep care plan composed in conjunction with the children's parents, which outlined in detail the developmental rational for the age and stage of the child's sleep needs, to include preferred sleep environment and sleep equipment.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- The registered provider has stated that sleep plans are now completed for each child. Children under the age of 2 years will have a signed sleep plan with parental consent given.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Evidence provided.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions submitted by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances outlined above. Compliance has now been met.

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 secure 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, this also prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.

- The kitchen was inaccessible to children on the day of inspection.
- Hazardous cleaning materials such as cleaning agents were placed on high shelving away from children's reach.
- The outdoor area was fully secured and enclosed with a high wall and fence.

Infection Control:

- Perishable food items brought in from home were refrigerated in children's individual lunch boxes until lunch or snack time.
- Toilet roll was hygienically stored and in easy reach of the children, preventing potential cross contamination.
- Pedal bins were in use in the rooms sampled, ensuring appropriate disposal of waste.
- Liquid soap and single use paper towels were in use throughout the service for hand drying purposes, ensuring good handwashing practices.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not observed to have been given on the day of inspection, staff demonstrated knowledge on the procedure for medication administration if required.

Safe Sleep:

- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in care rooms where children over 1 years old were sleeping.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The temperature of the sinks which were accessible to children exceeded the recommended temperature of 43 degrees. This posed a scald risk to the children. The inspector recorded a temperature of 51.5°C in the Purple Room and 51.1°C in the Green Room. An immediate action notice was issued to the service in respect to this risk. The actions submitted by the registered provider on the 2 May 2025 were sufficient to address this risk.

Safe Sleep:

2. The registered provider did not ensure a risk assessment which detailed the potential risk for a child both in the cot and if moved to a floor bed were not available for review.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The registered provider ensured the temperature gauge was fitted and a daily record is kept in each room to ensure the water temperature does not exceed the required temperature.

Safe Sleep:

2. The registered provider has completed risk assessments with sleep care plans to in all sleep areas, that are implemented daily.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence submitted.

Safe Sleep:

2. Evidence provided.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions submitted by the registered provider have been sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

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) 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 May 2025.

- (b) A record was available indicating the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment with records demonstrating it was last serviced in July 2024, and the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms throughout the service, these were last serviced on the 21 March 2025.
- (2) (c) The registered provider ensured that the fire drill and maintenance records were available for review by the Inspector.
- (4) A notice of procedures was displayed throughout the service indicating the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.