

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY020
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Name of Service:	Ballinderry Childcare
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Address of Service:	Ballinderry, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H53 K650
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Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Malone
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Service type:	Full Day
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Dates of Inspection: Day 1	24/04/2023
Day 2	27 April 2023

No of pre-school children:	AM	46	PM	41
Day 2	AM	No.	PM	23

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F . Kelly
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	N/A
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Description of service

This private run service was established in 2007 and operates as a full day care early years' service for children aged from 0 to 6yrs. The service is also registered to cater for school aged children. The pre-school service operates from 8 am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Staffing

There was a total of 15 staff working in the service which included the registered provider.

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/ premises and .

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,29 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed risk was identified under Regulation 8. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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 days of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) A prefab for children in the Junior playgroup aged from 2 to 3 years and was opened in 2023 and this change to the service was not notified to the National Registration Office prior to opening.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) An application for planning permission is being prepared and when planning is completed an application for a C.I.C will be made to the National Registration Office.

Supporting documentation submitted

None submitted.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance identified under this regulation remains outstanding as the registered provider did not provide evidence that the prefab building was not in use until change in circumstances application had been approved by the Early Years Inspectorate.

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*
- (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 registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

It was confirmed that there were 15 members of staff employed in the service.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were two written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for 13 adults working in the service.

- (b) There were written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for 2 adults working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.
- (4) All the adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The registered provider who was the designated person in charge and the named person who was able to deputise as required were not on the premises on the first day of inspection.
- (2)(d) Police Vetting disclosure was not available for 2 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)(b) A 3rd member of staff was appointed as deputy person in charge and will deputise when the register provider and the other named person are not on the premises.
- (2)(d) Police vetting is in place for 1 member of staff and the 2nd staff member has made an application and is awaiting vetting from that jurisdiction.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of one of police vetting was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

- (1)(b) The action as stated by the registered provider will address this non-compliance.
- (2)(d) The non-compliance identified under this regulation remains outstanding as the registered provider did not provide a copy of the 2nd outstanding police vetting.

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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On the first day of inspection, there were 46 pre-school children, attending the service. On the second day of inspection, there were 23 pre-school children attending the service.

(2) At 10.30 am on the first day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

Baby room there was 1 adult working with 2 infants aged 8 months .

Toddler room, there were 2 adults working with 9 children, aged between 17 months and 2 years.

Wobbler room , there were 3 staff working with 5 children, aged between 12 months and 17 months.

Junior Pre-school room, there were 3 adult working with 11 children, aged between 2 years 10 months and 3 years.

Senior Pre-school room, there were 3 adults working with 19 children aged over 3 years of age.

On day 2 of the inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

Baby room there was 1 adult working with 2 infants aged 8 months.

Toddler room, there was 1 adult working with 5 children, aged between 17 months and 2 years.

Wobbler room , there was 1 staff working with 2 children, aged between 12 months and 17 months.

Junior Pre-school room, there was 1 adult working with 5 children, aged between 2 years 10 months and 3 years.

Senior Pre-school room, there were 2 adults working with 9 children aged over 3 years of age.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were on the premises at all times during the daily operation 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

Basic Needs of the Infants & Children

- Children's toileting and nappy changing needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Self toileting was both supported and encouraged by adults depending on the child's age and stage of development.
- Parents provided the snack foods for their child and the service provides the main meal for children attending on a full day care basis. On the day, children's morning snacks consisted of a selection of fresh fruits, yogurts, crackers and sandwiches. All children were offered a plate to eat their snack from. The main meal consisted of shepherd's pie and water to drink.
- The children were given the opportunity to eat their meals in an unhurried manner, and self-feeding was encouraged by staff and help and support was offered when required.
- Children are provided with labelled individual spaces for their belongings e.g., individual coat hooks in each of the playrooms.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed during the inspection, the children were observed washing their hands when they returned from outdoor play and before their lunch..
- Bibs were available for children to use during messy play.
- The children had an opportunity to move freely indoors and outdoors and the various outdoor areas/spaces was in constant use on the day of inspection. Each playroom had a dedicated area in which to play and explore. The toys and equipment in each area supported children's play and movement There was a safe and comfortable outdoor space provided for infants and children not yet walking.