

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY075		
Name of Service:	Corrandulla Community		
Address of Service:	37 Gort Na Carraige, Corrandulla, Co. Galway		
Eircode:	H91 E953		
Name of Registered Provider:	Therese McGrath		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	27/06/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM 12
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 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

This community service operates a full day care early years' service for children. The service operates from 07.30 to 18.00, Monday to Friday and can cater for a maximum of 50 pre-school children. It is located in a privately owned housing estate in the village of Corrandulla, county Galway. The building consists of 4 playrooms and a separate dining room with a large outdoor play area located at the rear/side of the building

Staffing

On the day of inspection there were 7 staff working directing with the children. The manager was the person in charge and the registered provider does not work in the service on a daily basis.

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.

On inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 9 and 19. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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 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.*

(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 service manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the manager and deputy manager were on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there were 15 members of staff employed in the service and 1 registered provider.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 27 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(b) There were 5 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than the previous last employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.

(d) A police vetting disclosure was available for the 3 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 13 adults working directly with children that had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) A police Vetting disclosure was available for the 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months, however this police vetting was not translated into English by a reputable source.

(4) There was 1e adult that was unable to provide evidence that they had obtained a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) Police vetting was sent to a reputable source to be translated into English. A copy will be forwarded to the early years inspectorate once received.

(4) The staff member has applied to have her current qualifications recognised by the DCEDIY. While we are awaiting a reply the staff member will not work in the early years setting.

We will ensure that all staff have adequate qualifications and vetting prior to commencement employment in the earlier setting.

Summary Comment

It is acknowledged that the registered provider submitted a response to the non-compliances outlined under regulation 9, however it did not address the findings of non-compliance.

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 morning of the inspection, there were 23 pre-school children, attending the morning session and 12 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

(2) At 10.10 am on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.

- ECCE (Junior)Preschool room- there were 3 adults caring for 12 children ages between 2 years 8 months and 4 years of age.

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- Toddler room- there were 2 adults caring for 9 children aged between 1 year 7 months and 3 years.
- Baby room- there was 1 adult caring for 2 children aged from 12 months to 17 months.

(8)(a) The staff rosters indicated that there were 2 staff members on the premises during operational hours. .

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

- The children in the ECCE room were observed sitting around a large square table, the children could all sit at the table and talk to each other. It was a day of celebration, it was some of the children's last day attending the ECCE session.
- The children were the centre of the activities planned and they got an opportunity to pick the party games that they took part in. The children all sat around in a circle and engaged in a music, singing session the staff member played on music a speaker and the children sang along and danced along to game called "Mr. Potato"
- The staff had reflective practice poster on display. This outlined ideas and how the practice in this playroom can enhance the experience of the children attending the room. For example, children were quoted saying
 - "I like to play with Lego but it's very heavy to carry, so please can you put it on a low shelf".
 - "I really miss my family, how can you help me not feel so sad. Thank you for putting my family's pictures up on the board".
- The ECCE playroom was decorated with a range of bright visual displays such as
 - Birthday Wall
 - Photograph of what is for dinner today
 - Family tree
 - The room routine
 - Children's feelings
 - Room leaders
 - Photographs of the children in attendance each da.
- The children attending the Toddler room aged less than 2 years of age had access to cots in the adjoining sleep room and children attending this room over 2 years of age slept on stackable beds. This playroom

was converted into a sleep room after lunch each day. The staff stayed in the room with the children while they slept.

- The young Toddlers were observed sitting in the soft seated area with the staff members. The children sat in the circle with the staff and took part in a singing exercise. The children sang “Who came to creche today”. Each child was introduced to each other. The children seemed to enjoy this exercise which was evident by the smile on their faces.
- The children’s nappies were changed when required and not just at dedicated times throughout the day. The staff were heard speaking, singing and interacting in a positive manner with the children.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The adult in the baby room did not have a comfortable place to sit, hold and feed babies. The adult chair available was not suitable for the adults to interact with and comfort the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A chair that can offer support and comfort to the staff member to feed and comfort a child is now in place in the baby room. This chair will be replaced when required.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 24/07/2025, a photograph of the adult chair was submitted to the early year’s inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and the evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Reg 19 has been adequately addressed.

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) The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid was immediately available to the preschool children attending the service. There were 3 adults trained in First Aid Responder available to the children.
- (2)(a) There was suitably equipped first aid box available to the children, the contents were checked on a regular basis by a staff member.
- (b) The first aid box was conveniently located at the reception area in the front lobby area of 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 firefighting 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) Written records of the fire drills undertaken in the service were kept by staff with the last fire drill recorded as having been undertaken on the 17/06/2025.
- (1)(b) A certificate of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms was dated for the April 2005 and was available for inspection.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the service.