

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015GY100

Name of Service: Caisleán Óir Glinsk Community Childcare

Address of Service: Glinsk Community Childcare, Glinsk, Via Castlerea, Glinsk, Co. Galway

Eircode: F45 PX24

Name of Registered Provider: Linda Delaney

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 23/04/2025

No of pre-school children: AM 36 PM 36

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, S. Meehan.

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

Description of service

This community childcare setting is located in Glinsk village in north county Galway. This service offers a full day care and part time care and sessional provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs Monday to Friday. It comprises of four playrooms and outdoor play area to the side and rear of the building. The service was also registered to cater for school aged children.

Staffing

There are a total of 21 staff employed in the service, which include the service manager and 2 ancillary staff members. There were 13 staff members in attendance on the day of inspection. 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.

On inspection additional non-compliances were identified under Regulation 21 -Equipment and Materials and Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child .

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 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

(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 manager or deputy manager were available to deputise in their absence. The area manager assisted with administration duties.

(b) The roster indicated that there was a designated person in charge during the inspection and indicated that a person was in charge during the operation hours of the service.

(2) A total of 21 files were reviewed which included the registered providers and the adults working in the service:

- (a) Thirty-two of the required 42 written and validated references were from past employers.
- (b) Ten of the required 42 written and validated references were from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 21 adults working in the service.

The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for five adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months.

(4) Eighteen adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 and 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(4)(d) International police vetting was not available for one adult working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

International police vetting was sought and was translated by a reputable certified translating company. A copy was held in the staff file. In the future, staff will not commence employment without all vetting procedures being in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 4th of June 2025, the registered provider submitted a certified translation of the required police international police vetting certification to the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted the non-compliances identified under regulation 9 (4)(d) have been adequately addressed

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 day, there were 36 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and afternoon.
- At 10.30 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.
- (2)
- Baby room (8 months to 22 months) there were 2 adults caring for 6 children.
- Toddler room (over 2 years) there were 2 adults caring for 8 children.
- Little stars (2 years 8 months to 3 years 6 months) there were 3 adults caring for 11 children.
- Big Stars (4 years to 5 years), there were 2 adults caring for 11 children.
- (8)
- The staff roster of the service indicated that there were two adults on the premises at all times during the operational 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

1. The dignity of the child was protected during toileting, as the entrance doors of this sanitary area was left closed during the sessions and the children using the sanitary areas could be easily access the sanitary facilities as they were located adjacent to the classrooms. On the day of inspection, the toilet cubicle doors were latched open when the inspector arrived, but the manager informed the inspector that the latch is closed when in use by the children.
2. The children in the Little stars playroom were observed to play in the outdoor play area for most of the morning session prior to lunch time. They were observed playing in the area to the rear of the building, to which they had direct access from their playroom. The children all wore outdoor rain gear and wellington boots and that allowed the children to be outside for as long and as often as possible. The children were encouraged to remove their wellington boots and wet gear themselves and offered assistance when required.
3. Healthy eating was promoted within the service. The main meal of the day consisted of chicken curry and rice for lunch and fresh fruit, yogurt, cheese and sandwiches or rolls for snack times.
4. Children in the Little star room and the Big star playrooms were observed washing their hands after returning from outdoor play and before lunch time.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The adults in playrooms caring for younger children namely the Baby room had comfortable seats to sit, hold, feed and read to the children in their care. Staff and the children were able to look at or read books, interact and to comfort the children in their care
- There was soft seating in the Baby, Little stars and Big stars playrooms. On the day of inspection, the young children attending the Baby room had access to low level seating throughout the day. They were observed sitting in the soft seating in two corners of the room and engaging in activities.
- Of the six children present aged between eight months and two years only three children were fed in highchairs as the other children were able to sit independently at low level tables and chairs. These children displayed the capabilities of having good posture and strength to be able to sit independently in low level chairs.

Non-Compliance Information

1. There was a lack of materials, equipment and toys in the Toddler room to provide a rich and varied environment for the children e.g. Dolls house in this playroom had limited furniture and dolls for the children to play with. Dress up clothes was sparse and not on display for the children to play with. The children did not have access to enough varied materials and equipment e.g. small world toys were limited in the playroom.
Puzzles and boxes of toys were stored out of the reach of children on high shelves. The children had to ask to play with these toys which were not left within easy reach of the children.
2. Children in the Toddler room did not have access to soft seating or an area to sit and relax throughout the session, this was highlighted in a previous inspection report dated the 23/05/24.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The layout of the room was changed to ensure that toys are at the children's level and the play equipment will be rotated regularly. Management will conduct regular checks to ensure that a selection of toys are available to children.
2. New child sized sofas were purchased and located in the library area in the Toddler room, where children can sit and relax throughout the day.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 4th June 2025, the registered provider submitted photographs of the changed layout of the Toddler room and the new sofas located in the Toddler room.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted the non-compliances identified under Regulation 21 have been adequately addressed.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

Two of the soft seats in the little star's playroom had frayed edges with exposed form making it difficult to effectively clean it which may pose a risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following on their reply:

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

Child sized sofas were purchased to replace the sofa in the Little's stars room. Staff will do regular checks to ensure that they are maintained in good condition.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

On the 4th June 2025, the registered provider submitted photographs of the new sofa located in the Little star's room.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted, the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.