

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KE072
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Clever Cats Childcare Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	No 2 Trinity Crescent, Derrinturn, Carbury, Co. Kildare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	W91 DD88
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Deirdre Mills
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/11/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM	n/a
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	T. Duignan
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	n/a
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### Description of service

Clever Cats Childcare Centre was established in 2007 and provides sessional care and education to children aged between two and six years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.00am - 15.30 hours.

The service is situated in a residential area in the village of Derrinturn. It is located in two rooms in a purpose-built building at the rear of the Registered Providers own property. There is a spacious outdoor area directly accessed from the two care rooms.

### Staffing

Clever Cats Childcare Centre employs eight childcare staff including the registered provider.

All adults working in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education as per the National Framework of Qualifications.

There were eight adults including the registered provider working directly with the children in the service on the day of 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 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.*

*(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 files of eight members were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of eight adults employed.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.
- (4) Eight adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent by the Minister.

### 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) There were twenty-eight children attending the service being supervised directly by seven adults during the inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to on the day of the inspection.

### 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 two pre-school rooms were well resourced with a wide variety of age-appropriate play and learning equipment and materials that provided a stimulating and curious learning environment for the children. All equipment and materials were accessible to the children and grouped to encourage children to use them independently. The tables and chairs provided were child sized which enabled all children to sit comfortably for snack and tabletop activities. All equipment and furniture were observed in a clean and well-maintained condition.

There was direct access from each pre-school room to a covered outdoor play area for the children to access. A spacious secured outdoor space was available also.

### 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 entrance gate to the service and the doors to the pre-school rooms were controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school rooms. The registered provider documented the inspectors visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival.

Written indoor and outdoor environmental risk assessments were completed daily and maintained to ensure a safe play and work environment for the children and staff. Cupboards were observed secured with safety clasps and medication was stored in a cupboard which was inaccessible to the children. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the safe storage of cleaning agents.

The staff members were aware of the foods that may pose a choking risk to a child. They also stated that they would remove any necklace/beads if observed that a child may be wearing on arrival to the service.

##### Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels in paper dispensers were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The children's hand washing practices were well established and supervised by the staff members. Foot pedal operated bins were in place for the hygienic disposal of used paper towels. Facilities for nappy changing were available for any child who was not toilet trained.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

##### Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. Medication was stored safely out of the reach of children. The staff members were aware of the administration of medication policy and the safe practices to follow when administering medication.

Written health care plans were available for children who required medication to be administered as required for a pre-existing medical condition.

**Safe Sleep:**

Each pre-school room had a comfortable rest area co-located beside the library area for any child who wished to have a rest or take a break from activities for a while.

**Fire Safety:**

The staff members were familiar with the fire evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed. Fire drills were carried out and records maintained.

**Outing:**

The service does not conduct outings.

**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) Persons were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)

(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the two care rooms.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available to the children attending the service.