

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015KE117

Name of Service: Child's Play Creche

Address of Service: Hazelwood, Millfield Manor, Newbridge, Co. Kildare

Eircode: W12 VK16

Name of Registered Provider: Georga Dowling

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 29/07/2025

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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 36 | PM | 30 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:
Early Years Inspectorate
Child and Family Agency
Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre
Ballymore Eustace Road
Naas, Co. Kildare
W91 X38W

Inspection undertaken by: F. Maher, T. Duignan

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

Child's Play Crèche is one of two private services operated by the registered provider, the second being a sessional only service on the grounds of Kildare Educate Together school in Kildare town.

Full day, part-time and sessional education and care is offered to children aged between 0-6 years. The service opens from 07:20am-18:30hrs Monday to Friday. A registered school age service is also provided.

Staffing

Nineteen adults were employed in the service, including the registered provider. Fourteen adults were present on the day of inspection and included eight adults working directly with the pre-school children, one relief staff member, the person in charge and deputy person in charge, the chef and two adults working directly with school aged children. The registered provider was not present.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following Regulations:

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) – Management and Recruitment

- Regulation 11(1)(2), (8)9a) – Staffing Levels
- Regulation 20(1)(b) – Facilities for Rest and Play
- Regulation 22 – Food and Drink
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child
- Regulation 25 – First Aid
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures
- Regulation 27 – Supervision
- Regulation 28 – Insurance

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 persons 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)(b)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required, both remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

The files of eighteen staff were assessed.

(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 eighteen adults employed whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for eighteen 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 nine adults who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

(4)
Eighteen 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 or a recognised equivalent qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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)
There were 36 children attending the service being supervised directly by 8 staff members during the inspection, A relief staff member and the persons in charge were available to provide support and assistance to the rooms as required throughout the day.

(2)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6.

(8)(a)
There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the inspection, this was verified by the up-to-date staff roster.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(b)

Suitable rest areas with child sized couches provided a place for children to sit and relax during the day and there were soft floor mats in the Baby and Wobbler rooms for the comfort of the babies and younger children.

There was one sleep room with 8 cots available for children aged up to 2 years requiring sleep in a cot; this was an adequate number of cots to provide needs led sleep. Each cot mattress had a recognised safety label and fit each cot snugly. The cots were shared and each mattress had a waterproof sheet in place for each child. Suitable, individually stored bed linen was available and a regular laundry schedule was in place as advised by the person in charge.

Low level beds were available for all children aged over 2 years who slept at a designated time after they had their lunch.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service promoted healthy eating and provided all meals and snacks for the children attending on a full and part time basis. Parents were asked to provide a healthy snack for their child attending on a sessional basis.

A chef was employed and all food was freshly prepared on site daily. The four-week menu outlined the varied and nutritionally complete meals and snacks offered. An example of the main hot meals served over the course of the month included casseroles with meat, vegetables and potato, varied roast meat dinners with potato and vegetables, curry and pasta dishes with meat and vegetables. Snacks included fresh fruit pieces, crackers and cheese and homemade cookies, evening tea options included egg muffins, a selection of sandwiches with various

healthy fillings, couscous, tacos, omelettes, macaroni and cheese. Milk was served with the morning snack and for breakfast and water was freely available to the children in all rooms.

The main hot meal served on the day of inspection was spaghetti carbonara and garlic bread and the morning snack was apple slices with milk to drink. There was plenty of food available if any child requested/required an extra helping.

The staff ensured mealtimes were a social occasion in each room and the table was laid with a cloth and individual place mats that the children had decorated.

The chef advised the service was a 'nut and grape free' zone and children with specific food allergies were accommodated along with cultural or religious requirements for any child attending the service. The chef was trained in food safety and the kitchen was registered with and inspected regularly by the relevant health authority.

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 door to the service was electronically secure and controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school service.

The person in charge presented the visitor book to the inspectors on arrival to record the visit details.

All cupboards were secure ensuring any hazardous items were not accessible to children and medicine was stored in the mini fridge in the baby room located on a countertop out of reach of children.

Daily indoor room and outdoor risk assessments were completed and maintained to ensure a safe play and work environment for the children and staff.

Staff members in each room advised the inspector they would remove any beaded necklace if observed that a child may be wearing them to mitigate any potential risk of harm to the child.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents which were inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted units, were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying and handwashing routines were well established and observed.

Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used nappies, tissues, paper towel and waste. Plastic aprons, disposable gloves and nappy sacks were available for hygienic nappy change practices. Four nappy change procedures were observed and were carried out hygienically by two staff members.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments and cleaning staff were engaged for deep cleaning at the weekend.

Administration of Medication:

Medicine was not given at the time of the inspection; written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with the required practices when administering medication safely in the service. Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if required and safely stored. No child attending the pre-school service required emergency medication.

Safe Sleep:

The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance and practice. Ten-minute sleep check observations were completed on all sleeping children and records maintained of the colour, position and breathing pattern of sleeping children. The environmental temperature of the sleep room was maintained between 16-20° Celsius, this was facilitated with openable windows, an electric fan and a portable air-cooling unit.

Fire Safety:

Emergency exits were kept clear to ensure the prompt evacuation of children in the event of an emergency occurring. Staff outlined the evacuation routes taken from each room to the inspector and the assembly point designated for each group. Regular monthly fire drills were recorded.

Outing:

Outings do not take place from the service; this was confirmed by the person in charge.

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 First Aid Response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)

The first aid equipment was safely stored, in conspicuous positions throughout the service.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending 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 fire fighting 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)

A written record was available of fire drills in the service; the last recorded fire drill took place 15 June 2025.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and fire detection system in the premises and both were last serviced August 2024.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The children were observed being supervised at all times throughout the inspection by the adults caring for them including, indoors in their care rooms, while in the outdoor play areas, when using the sanitary facilities, washing hands in their care room as needed, during snack and mealtimes and during sleep times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2026. The insurance provided cover for 90 children.