

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY028				
Name of Service:	Camp Community Childcare CLG				
Address of Service:	Ballinknockane, Camp, Tralee, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V92 RYW3				
Name of Registered Provider:	Duncan Christie				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	27/08/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>36</td> <td>PM</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </table>	AM	36	PM	24
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.				
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy				
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	N/A
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Description of service

This community-based purpose-built early years service is registered to provide sessional, part-time and full day care to children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service is open between the hours of 08:30 am and 6:00 pm Monday to Friday.

There are 3 care rooms in the building, a sleep room in the creche and sanitary accommodation serving each of the care rooms. The children attending the service have access to a designated outdoor play area and to a spacious indoor hall.

Staffing

There are currently 14 adults attached to the early years service, 13 of whom are involved in the direct care of the children. The registered provider is not service based and does not work directly with the children who attend the setting.

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 inspections 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 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 service had a designated person in charge and deputy person in charge on the premises on the day of inspection. In the event the person or deputy person in charge were not on the premises, there are additional named persons able to deputise.
- (b) The person in charge or the named deputy persons were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.
- (2) The staff files for each of the 14 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) Of the 28 references required, 16 references with 13 records of validation were available from past employers.
- (b) Of the 28 references required, 08 references with 4 records of validation were available from a reputable source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures has been obtained for all 14 adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.
- (d) Police vetting was on file for 3 adults who lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months who required it.
- (4) The adults working directly with children held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least 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

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a) & (b)
- Four validated references were not on file in respect of 3 adults.
 - Validations required were not on file for 7 written references.
- (d)
- Police vetting was not on file in respect of 3 adults who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

The Police vetting required was for 1 adult who resided in 1 country outside of Ireland, 2 adults who required it for a second country resided in outside of Ireland and 1 adult who did not have Police vetting translated by a certified translation company.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a)

1. The references are now on file.
2. The references that had not been validated have been validated via telephone.

To prevent these non-compliances from reoccurring, management will review the staff files to ensure the appropriate information is recorded. New employees will not be permitted to begin work until the references and validations are on file.

(d)

The Police vetting for 2 adults was applied for and received.

The 1 adult who required Police vetting from 2 countries resided in outside of Ireland, ceased employment in the service on 12.09.'25.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Four validated references in respect of 3 adults were received.
 2. Seven validations for the 7 written references were received.
- (d) The Police vetting for 2 adults who remain attached to the service were received.

Summary Comment

All documentation received was examined and was deemed to meet the requirement of the regulation.

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) At the time of inspection, it was observed that there was an adequate number of staff working directly with children.
- (2) The required adult to child ratios were observed in the 3 care rooms in operation on the day.
- In the Creche there were 4 adults caring for 11 children aged between 11 months– 2 years (1 child under 1 year) attending on a part-time and full day care basis.
- In the Junior pre-school room, there was 3 adults caring for 11 children aged between attending aged between 2 years and 3 years attending on a part-time and full day care basis.
- In the Senior pre-school room, there were 3 adults caring for 14 children, 12 children aged 3 years- 5 years and 2 school aged children attending on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis.
- (8) (a) The registered provider did ensure that a minimum of two adults were always on the premises during the hours of operation.

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's toileting and hygiene needs were attended to regularly during the day. The staff supported and encouraged the children with self-toileting as was needed.
- Nappy changing was carried out promptly as required during the day. The children were spoken to and interacted with by the staff during nappy changing.
- The mealtimes observed were relaxed and unhurried.
- The service offers a main hot meal and food for snack times each day to the children attending.
- The food for the main meal is supplied by an outside catering company and is stored in fridges in the main kitchen/staff room.
- All food is prepared in the kitchen and delivered to the care rooms where it is portioned and served.

- The food observed during the inspection included cheese, oranges, bananas and yogurts with water to drink, for the main meal it was lasagne.
- Additional food portions were offered to children as requested.
- The mealtimes were unhurried, children who had finished before others went to play with their toys of choice.
- The service had an adequate number of feeding chairs for the number of children who required them.
- The inspector observed a staff member stayed with children in the sleep room, sitting next to the cot, re-assuring and comforting them until asleep.
- The staff on inspection were observed to be caring, kind, attentive and supportive to children's needs.
- Settling to the service in for children was observed to be facilitated during the inspection in the creche.
- The parent of the child settling in was greeted in a warm, friendly, professional manner into the creche room.
- The planned settling in period was discussed, and the parent was re-assured of contact from the service if required.
- The staff were observed to make the transition into the creche as easy and as comfortable as possible for the child, providing toys and inclusion in play time with other children.
- The children attending availed of play time in the spacious hall during the course of the inspection.

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 outdoor play area secured with fencing and gates to prevent the children gaining unsupervised access to the roadway.
- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access.
- The cleaning products seen on inspection were stored out of the reach of the children.
- Children sleeping in the standard cots during the inspection had physical checks conducted at 10-minute intervals. The children's position, colour and breathing pattern were recorded.

Infection Control:

- Children were observed washing their hands prior to eating with the staff members on hand to provide assistance as needed.

- The tables were cleaned down prior to and after the mealtime observed.
- The nappy changing unit, the vinyl changing mat and its surrounds were clean and dry.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There were 2 radiator covers not secured to the wall, 1 in the Senior pre-school room and 1 in the lobby of the senior pre-school sanitary accommodation posing a risk of injury to the children.
2. The inspector was informed by staff when asked that a method used to heat bottles of milk for children was in the microwave located in the kitchenette in the creche, posing a risk of scalding to children caused by potential hot spots.
3. There were 2 sets of fire exits doors in the hall that had low-level push bar handles used to open the doors. The doors opened out to the carpark and roadway posing a risk of injury to children.
4. There were unsecured window guards in place on the 5 low-level windows in the hall posing a risk of injury to the children.
5. The child safety gate in place on the kitchen door in the creche was not secured posing a risk of injury to children.
6. On the day of the inspection, the inspector observed the children playing in the hall. The stage with steps leading to it, an open area under the stage used for storage, access to communal dressing rooms and adult sanitary accommodated was not adequately secured posing a risk of injury to the children.
7. Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the 14 adults attached to the service. However, 2 vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EY-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'

Infection Control:

8. There were children's spare clothing items stored in an open wall mounted pocket storage in the children's sanitary accommodation serving the Senior pre-school posing a risk of cross infection.
9. There was an unlabelled oral gel stored in the kitchenette in the creche, the expiry date demonstrated it was out of date. The staff informed the inspector when asked that it had been used for more than 1 child posing a risk of cross infection.
10. The lid of the foot operated bin in the adult toilet was broken posing a risk of cross infection as the lid of the bin was touched when disposing paper hand towels.

Fire Safety:

11. There were 2 clothes airers in use and 7 feeding chairs in the hallway leading to 1 fire exit door, posing a risk to children of not exiting promptly in the event of a fire of injury to children due to the obstructions.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Immediately after the inspection management hired a tradesman to secure both radiator covers. The staff have been asked to complete weekly visual inspections of the fixtures/fittings to complete the devised template devised. If any item requires attention the staff will note the detail and send a picture directly to management through the software application in operation in the service. Once management receive the message, the risk will be inspected and a corrective action will be put in place. If the issue is deemed an immediate risk, the area will be closed off / the item removed.
2. All staff have been informed of the dangers of heating bottles in the microwave. A bottle warmer was purchased and is in place to use to heat the bottles as required. A notice is displayed in the creche kitchenette to state the microwave is not to be used.
3. From the day of the inspection the children were not permitted to use the hall until the fire doors had been adequately secured. The overhead power button on the doors has reconnected, preventing children from opening the doors. The staff will check that the doors are secured before entering the hall. If the doors are not secured the hall will not be used until the doors are secured.
4. The window guards were removed permanently by the Camp community council once they were informed.
5. A new child safety gate was installed.
6. Gates have been installed at either side of the stage to prevent children from accessing the stage, the storage area, which was cleared out, communal dressing rooms and adult sanitary accommodation.
7. The Garda vetting for the 2 adults was applied for and received.

Infection Control:

8. The children's spare clothing was immediately. All clothing was washed on a 60-degree wash with disinfectant detergent. Clothing is now stored in a locked cabinet in the pre-school room. All staff are aware of the location of the new storage for the children's spare clothes.
9. The oral gel was immediately disposed of. Oral gels will be provided by the parents for individual children, they will be labelled, the expiry date will be checked by the parents and re-checked by the staff.
10. A new bin has been ordered to replace the current bin.

Fire Safety:

11. The clothes airers and the feeding chairs have been removed and are now stored in the closed storage area beside the staff kitchen.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographs of the repaired radiator covers.
2. The statement and a photograph of the signage referred to that is on display in the creche kitchenette.
3. The statement is accepted as evidence.
4. Photographs of the 5 windows without the window guards.
5. A photograph of the child safety gate in place on the creche kitchen door.
6. A photograph of gates in place at both sides of the stage in the hall.
7. The Garda vetting disclosures required for the 2 adults were received.

Infection Control:

8. A photograph of the children's spare clothes within a low-level cupboard with a key on the door.
9. The statement is accepted as evidence.
10. Evidence of the order for a 50-litre lidded pedal bin.

Fire Safety:

11. A photograph of the clear floor area in the hallway leading to 1 fire exit door. Signage reminding staff to keep the hallway clear at all times.

Summary Comment

All documentation received was examined. The requirement for this regulation has been met.

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) It was evident from the staff rota that there was at least one staff member trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) available on the premises at all times. A total of 7 staff had in date FAR training as evidenced in the certifications open for inspection.
- (2)(a) The First aid boxes were stored up high, out of reach of children and clearly identifiable in each of the care rooms.
- (b) The first aid boxes were suitably stocked for the number of children attending the service. These were available for staff to attend to the children if required.

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) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -
- (a) A template to record each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 12.08.'25.
 - (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check for the smoke alarm was 13.12.'24 and for the firefighting equipment was 19.02.'25.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (c)
- There was adequate and suitable lighting provided on the day of the inspection via artificial and natural means.
 - The rooms were ventilated by means of openable windows and mechanical ventilation.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. The hall door handle was not in proper working order as it was loose and not secure.
- (e)
2. There was 1 nappy changing unit and 1 wash hand basin in use for 15 children (creche & pre-school children) in nappies. The requirement is 1 nappy changing unit and 1 wash hand basin for 11 children in nappies.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d)
1. The broken door handle was disposed of and a new door handle fitted. A weekly visual inspection by staff will be carried out.
- (e)
2. The staff bathroom has been relocated to the bathroom off the kitchen area lobby. Staff also have access to the bathroom in the sports hall. The former adult bathroom is now used as a nappy changing area for children; there is a fully functioning changing table with a low height wash hand basin in place. This new nappy changing facility will remain in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. A photograph of the new door handle in place.
2. The statement is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The correspondence received was examined. The requirement has been met.