

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY034
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Name of Service:	Cre-8-tive Corner Childcare
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Address of Service:	1 Lios Rua, Cahermoneen, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V92 R9HY
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rute O'Halloran
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	29/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	17
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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	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Cre-8-tive Corner Childcare is a private early years service that offers full day care, part-time and sessional care to children aged between 6 months and 6 years. The service is in operation Monday to Friday inclusive between the hours of 8:00 am and 6pm. The service also offer care for school aged children. The premise consists of 2 playrooms, 1 on the ground floor and 1 on the 1st floor together with designated enclosed outdoor play areas.

Staffing

There are 7 adults employed to work directly with the children which includes the registered provider who is rostered to work daily with the children.

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.

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, 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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named deputy.
 - (b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named deputy is on the premises.
- (2)
- The registered provider confirmed that 1 adult had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 26/11/2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to this adult were reviewed.
- (a) Not applicable as the references on file were from a source other than a past employer.
 - (b) 2 written validated references were on file from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for the 1 adult in question.
 - (d) Not applicable, the adult in question did not reside outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in respect of the 1 adult as outlined above prior to the adult was appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) The qualification inspected in respect of the 1 adult had evidence on file that it is a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at Level 5.

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) The registered provider did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(2)

The 2 playrooms were in operation on the day of the inspection.

Creche

There were 4 staff caring for 11 children aged between 6 months and 3 years, 3 children were aged between 6 months and 1 year, 2 attending on a sessional basis and 1 on a full day care basis, 6 children were aged between 1 year and 2 years and 2 children aged between 2 years and 3 years attending on a part-time full day care basis.

Pre-school room

There were 2 staff caring for 11 children aged between 3 years and 4 years, 3 children attending on a sessional basis, 5 children attending on a part-time basis and 3 children were attending on a full day care basis.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(a) The registered provider did ensure that 2 adults are on the premises during the hours of operation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) The 12 records inspected had the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) The following records were maintained:

- (h) details of attendance by a pre-school child on a daily basis.
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury and incident involving a pre-school child attending 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

- Healthy eating is promoted in the service and the parents/guardians of the children attending provide all the food consumed in the service.
- Children younger than 1 year were held while bottle feeding.
- Feeding chairs for the younger children were provided and the older children sat on the low-level chairs at the tables.

- The children from pre-school had a picnic for the morning meal on a blanket on the artificial grassed outdoor play area designated to them.
- The food observed on inspection included a variety of fruit such as sliced apples, grapes, melon, blueberries, dried fruit, strawberries, sandwiches, crackers, bananas, hard boiled eggs with water and milk to drink.
- The children were given enough time to eat and enjoy their bottles, and food in a relaxed environment indoors and outside.
- The staff supported and encouraged the children to feed themselves as appropriate to their age and stage of development.
- The service provided clean bibs for the younger children at mealtimes.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located adjacent to both playrooms.
- The inspector observed the children were accompanied from outside to the toilet to supervise and provide assistance as needed.
- The nappy changing facilities were used for any child who required to have their nappy changed as necessary and in a timely manner. The staff members were observed chatting and singing with the children during nappy changing.
- The children present on the day of the inspection enjoyed freedom of movement between the outdoor and indoor areas. The staff erected gazebos, tents and large umbrellas to provide shade for the children who had sunscreen and sunhats on.
- The area directly located off the creche had a spacious covered area with soft matting that was predominantly used for the children aged under 1 year on the day.

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

(1)(b) There was a designated sleep room adjacent to the downstairs creche room. There were 4 standard cots with appropriate linen provided in the room.

There were 6 low level beds with appropriate linen available for the older children who were required to rest or sleep. On the day of the inspection children were observed using the sleep room facilities as children required a rest or sleep. All sleep and rest facilities were appropriate for meeting the needs of children attending on a full day care basis on the day of the inspection. There was 1 cot used and 6 stackable beds under the care of 1 adult who remained in the room with the children who slept.

Designated rest areas were provided in the 2 playrooms that consisted of soft matting, cushions and comfortable colourful low-level couches.

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 external doors and gates were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the building unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premise.

Infection Control:

- There was warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels provided at the wash hand basins to facilitate effective handwashing by the children and by the adults.
- Children's soothers were hygienically stored in individually labelled clean containers.
- Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet, after playing outdoors and prior to mealtimes.
- The linen seen was clean and dry with an adequate supply on the premises. The inspector was informed that linen was individual to each child and labelled.

Administration of Medication:

- The adults informed the inspector of emergency medication required for children attending. The medicine was stored in a designated cupboard and was clearly labelled with the instructions for use. The inspector observed the said medication was taken to the outdoor play area during the session as on the day the children played outside for most of the time.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep checks were conducted and documented on children who slept at 10-minute intervals. An adult remained in the room with the children when they were resting/sleeping during the course of the inspection and the inspector was informed that this is standard practice.

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) 6 adults working in the service had current First Aid Responder training with the certifications on file.

(2)

(a) There were adequately equipped first aid boxes stored in each of the playrooms.

(b) The first aid boxes were accessible to the adults and out of the reach of the children.

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) Each fire drill had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 18/04/2023.

(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 on the fire extinguishers was February 2023 and the smoke alarm was 21/03/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the playrooms in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was on file. The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider.
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service that is full day care.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 30 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'24

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

Compliance Information

- (b) The premise was safe and secure the doors and gates were secure.
- (c) The registered provider informed the inspector that a heating and ventilation system was installed in the building since the last inspection.