

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY034
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Cre-8-tive Corner Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	1 Lios Rua, Cahermoneen, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 R9HY
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Rute O'Halloran
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	06/08/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	11
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Aras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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

Cre-8-tive Corner Childcare is a privately owned early years service that is registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care for children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service is currently operating between the hours of 08.00am and 6:00 pm. The premise has of 2 playrooms namely the Creche downstairs and the Pre-school room located upstairs. The children’s sanitary accommodation is located within the care rooms, there is adult sanitary facilities, an office, a sleep room in the creche and a designated enclosed outdoor play area available and accessible each day to the children attending.

### Staffing

There were 9 adults attached to the service including the registered provider who work directly with the children.

### Methodology

Tulsa’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 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, 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 registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named deputy. In the event the person or deputy person in charge were not on the premises, a named person able to deputise was available.
- (b) The person in charge and the named deputy person in charge were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.
- (2) The staff files for each of the 9 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) Of the 18 references required, 16 validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) Of the 18 references required, 1 validated reference was available from a reputable source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures has been obtained for all 9 adults. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for 3 adults who lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months 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)
- A second written validated reference was not on file for 1 adult.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The service has obtained a second written validated reference. The service will adhere at all times to the Management and Recruitment policy and will ensure that any person recruited will only commence work when all the relevant documentation has been received and verified by management. The staff records will be reviewed regularly to make sure they are compliant.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

The required one written validated reference.

### Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

### 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 2 care rooms in operation on the day.

In the Creche there were 4 adults caring for 9 children aged between 1 year – 3 years attending on a part-time and full day care basis.

In the Pre-school room there was 2 adults caring for 11 children aged between attending aged between 4 years and 7 years (10 pre-school children and 1 school aged child) attending on a 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

(1)(a)

#### BASIC NEEDS:

- The adults caring for the children were observed to be kind, caring, patient and understanding towards the children in their care.
- They spoke to the children in low soft tones of voice and were observed coming down to their level when speaking and playing with them.
- The adults provided for each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.
- The children were observed sleeping and resting at various times as they needed to during the day in the creche.
- The children slept in the standard cots with appropriate linen in the designated sleep room and on floor mats in a designated space in the creche.
- The older children availed of quiet time, they took time out of activities and relaxed as a group with adult supervision, in the closed in space in the outdoor play area.
- Some children who rested and wanted to return to play were accommodated to do so.
- An adult was observed to remain with the children in the sleep room and an adult with children sleeping on the floor mats in the creche at all times.
- The children observed not sleeping were supervised by the adults playing both indoors and outdoors.
- The children had the choice of moving between the indoor and outdoor area, the exit door between the creche and the outdoor area remained opened during the day.
- The children attending both care rooms were observed to enjoy free movement indoors and outdoors.
- Since the last inspection the registered provider has further developed the outdoor area providing a fully enclosed area for use in all weathers with artificial grass underfoot. This structure has an easily openable gate directly linking to the rest of the outdoor area with the concrete surface.

- The adults were observed enabling the children to have plenty of opportunities to explore the indoor and outdoor areas.
- Toys and play materials were accessible on the floor, on low level shelving and in designated boxes.
- The children played with blocks, story time with 1 adult on the soft matting in the creche, on the ride on toys outdoors, drawing with chalks on the concrete surface and with the dolls and buggies.
- The parents provide the food consumed on the premise.
- The pre-school children came downstairs to the creche for the morning snack time and for the lunch time.
- The food observed included a selection of fruit, yogurts, cheese, bread sticks and hummus.
- There were feeding chairs available for the smaller children and the older children sat on the low-level chairs at the low-level tables.
- The children had access to their drink's bottles on low level shelving in the creche and in the outdoor play area when playing there.
- The inspector observed children had unrestricted access to the toilets during the session with the staff on hand to provide assistance as needed.
- The children's individual toileting needs were met as observed, for example children potty training.
- Nappy changing was carried out in the designated nappy changing room in the creche. The adult communicated freely with the children during nappy changing.
- The children attending the pre-school room pre-dominantly played outdoors between the mealtimes.
- Adult seating was provided to facilitate comforting and nurturing the children.

### 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 internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas. Keypad entry systems were in place.
- Any visitor to the centre used the buzzer system used for authorised entry.
- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access.
- The emergency exits were unobstructed.
- The highchairs observed on inspection were in a good condition and fitted with safety harnesses.

- The cleaning agents observed on inspection were stored in high level cupboards and high-level racks out of children's reach.
- The blind cords observed were secured.

### Infection Control:

- The children's perishable food items were refrigerated.
- The service had a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap, disposable paper hand towels and foot operated lidded bins.
- There was a lidded, lined, sealed and foot operated bin in place for used nappies.
- The windows were open and there was mechanical ventilation in the care rooms and sanitary accommodation for ventilation.

### Fire Safety:

- The service demonstrated that monthly fire drills were conducted in the service. The records maintained showed the last fire drill took place on 7.7.'25.
- The records displayed in the service demonstrated that the fire alarm system was last checked on 18.6.'25 and the firefighting equipment checked was March 2025.
- A notice for the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

1. The nappy changing practices observed on inspection were inconsistent and at variance with the nappy changing policy in place in the service, posing a risk of cross contamination as follows:
  - Handwashing did not take place after removing the gloves between each nappy change.
  - The changing unit and mat were not cleaned down after nappy change took place.
  - The plastic aprons were not changed for each individual nappy change.
  - Not all children's hands were washed after nappy changing was carried out.

#### Safe Sleep:

2. The 10-minute physical sleep checks were not recorded on all the children who were sleeping in the creche.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Infection Control:

1. The service will adhere to the Nappy and Infection Control Policies at all times. The service held a meeting for staff to go through the policies and have a practical refresher. The management will ensure that all staff adhere to the Nappy and Infection Control Policies. Regular refresher practical sessions will take place.

##### Safe Sleep:

2. The staff are now recording the sleep checks on all children during rest time on the sleep chart. All the staff will adhere to the Sleep Policy. The management will support the staff and will ensure that a record of the children resting is recorded. t

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### Infection Control:

1. The statement is accepted as evidence and a copy of the minutes of the meeting held with the staff.

##### Safe Sleep:

2. The statement is accepted as evidence. Photo evidence of the sleep chart records.

### Summary Comment

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 1 staff member trained in First Aid Responder (FAR). A total of 4 adults had up to date FAR training and 2 adults had up to date emergency First Aid training completed.
- (2)(a) The first aid boxes were stored up high, out of reach of children and clearly identifiable in 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.