

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY036
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Name of Service:	Cumann Iosaef Community Preschool & Afterschool
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Address of Service:	Cumann Iosaef Community Centre & sports Hall, Balloonagh, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V92 Y336
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Name of Registered Provider:	James Hussey
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	14/10/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy & B. Fraher
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	N/A
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Description of service

Cumann Iosaef Community Pre-school & Afterschool is a community based early years service that is registered to provide sessional, part-time and full day care to children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service is registered to provide care for school age children. This early years service is open Monday to Friday inclusive between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:15pm. The service operates from the community sports Hall building and from a purpose-built facility in Tralee town, Co. Kerry.

There are 2 care rooms in operation namely the Creche room located in the purpose-built building and the pre-school room located in the sports hall building. There is a sensory/quiet room located within the creche available for the children's use. There are 2 outdoor play areas designated for the children attending the service, each accessible directly from the respective care rooms.

The children attending the pre-school room have access to an indoor hall at allocated times and days of the week.

Staffing

There are currently 17 adults attached to the early years service, 14 of whom are involved in the direct care of the children, that includes the 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme and 2 Community Employment (CE) participants. The registered provider, the centre co-ordinator and the cleaner/arts & crafts organizer for children do 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 announced 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 inspectors wish 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 registered provider had ensured that both a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge was assigned to the setting.
 - (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the designated person in charge was on duty and remained available to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the 17 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) 26 references were from previous employers with records of validation were on file.
 - (b) 8 references were from sources other than previous employers with records of validation on file.
 - (c) Garda vetting was on file for each of the 17 adults. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years in respect of each of the applicable adults.

(4) The staff members working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with copies of the relevant qualifications on file.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)
(d) Police vetting was not on file in respect of 1 adult who resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The police vetting was applied for and received.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the processed police vetting in respect of the 1 adult.

Summary Comment

The requirement 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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

(7) A registered provider of an overnight pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 4 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number in column (1) 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,

(9) In assessing compliance with the adult: child ratios specified in Schedule 6, unpaid workers and, where applicable, the person referred to in Regulation 24(2), shall not be taken into account.

Compliance Information

Click or tap here to enter text.

(1) It was noted that an adequate number of adults were responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance on the day of inspection.

(2) The adult child ratio was observed in all care rooms which were operational as follows:

Morning:

Room Name and Age range of children	Number of Children present	Number of Adults present
Creche (9months to 2years)	8	4
Preschool (3years to 4 years)	11	4

Afternoon:

Room Name and Age range of children	Number of Children present	Number of Adults present
Creche (1 year old to 3 years)	6	3
Pre-school (2 years to 4 years)	7	2

4(a) (b): The minimum adult-child ratio was maintained in the service during the sessional service hours.

8 (a) At least two adults were present at all times throughout the inspection period. This practice was also evident through the staff roster.

The two CE workers present were not accounted for in the adult:child ratio.

(9) One CE worker was not included in the adult child ratios in the pre-school room in the morning .and in the Creche in the afternoon.

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.*

(2) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) Children’s enrolment forms were assessed for the children attending the service.

A sample was taken and in total 20 records were inspected and had the detail as listed in (a) to (i).

(2) (c) The records as identified above were made available to the inspector for review.

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;

Compliance Information

(1)

A record in writing was kept in relation to the following: -

- (h) details of attendance for the children attending the creche.
- (i) details of staff roster for the pre-school room.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The following records were not maintained in writing: -

- (h) The children's arrival times to the service in respect of the children present in the pre-school room. The inspector observed that 11 were present in the room at 10:30 am for which the arrival time for each child was not recorded and at 1:50 pm there were 6 children present, for which the arrival time for 3 children was not recorded. This posed a risk to the safety of the children in the event of a fire evacuation as the staff had not recorded the children present. On both occasions this was brought to the attention of the staff member who immediately completed the record.
- (i) The inspector observed that 2 staff members working in the creche at 2pm were not recorded in the staff roster.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (h) The service compiled a policy and procedure for recording children's daily attendance, all the staff have read and signed on the said policy. The person in charge will call into each room to check the attendance books.
- (i) The service has compiled a policy and procedure for recording the staff roster, including the arrival and departure times and the cover for breaks. The staff have read and signed on the said policy and the person in charge will call into each room to check the records.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (h) Copies of the daily attendance records for children and a copy of the Policy and Procedure for recording children's attendance in the service.

(i) Copies of the staff rosters and the Policy and procedure for recording staff attendance.

Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

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

- During the inspection the children were observed to enjoy and avail of freedom of movement within each of the care rooms.
- All children attending spent time in the designated outdoor play areas and the children attending the pre-school room availed of time in the spacious indoor hall.
- The children in the creche observed outdoors were dressed appropriately in their coats. The outdoor area was directly accessible from the creche, the door was kept open allowing children the choice of moving between both areas.
- The staff were observed to be kind, caring and attentive towards the needs of the children in their care.
- The staff were supportive of a child settling into the service on the morning of the inspection.
- Adult seating was in place to facilitate comforting and nurturing young children.
- On speaking with staff, they described the nappy changing procedure clearly demonstrating their ability to carry out the nappy changing effectively.
- Children using the toilet had unrestricted access to the toilets located in the pre-school room. The staff were on hand to offer any assistance as was required.
- The staff provided for children's comfort and individual need for rest and relaxation as evidenced with a child resting on the soft low-level couch covered with a blanket and a drink in the pre-school room.
- Water was offered with the food and was freely available to children in the care rooms.

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-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(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(a)

- The two rooms were of a suitable size to facilitate the children in them. The creche had access to a large outdoor area and the preschool had access to both an outdoor area and a large hall.
- Both rooms were resourced to suit the age range of children attending.
- The creche and the preschool had ample amounts of toys to promote the development of fine and gross motor skills, imaginative play, exploratory play and creativity. Such toys as puzzles, a car mat, toy kitchen, toy ironing board, dolls, dress up outfits, art and books were available.
- There was an outdoor area off both rooms was available to the children and had toys such as a playhouse, bikes, balance boards, Hola hoops and an outdoor kitchen. The children were encouraged with imaginative play, making houses out of blocks.
- A hall was also available where the children ran freely and played soccer.
- A sensory room was also available adjoined to the creche room.
- All care rooms had child height chairs and low tables for the children to use.

(b)

- There were adequate facilities for the children to rest during the day.
- Each room had a rest area that allowed the children to rest and opt out of activities as they wished.
- The sleep room was located in the creche adjacent to the care room. It included two cots with two stackable beds stored in under them which are currently not in use.

- There was an adequate supply of cots for the children that sleep in the facilities. No child was observed sleeping during the inspection.
- The cot barrier height was suitable and there were no footholds in the cots noted. The mattresses were waterproof with cellular blankets available for use.
- The spaces between the bars were of adequate distance.3(a)
- The two outdoor spaces were suitable, safe and secure. The children all access outdoors on a daily basis.
- The outdoor areas in the preschool were secured by a high wall and locked metal gate and the creche area was secured by a high fence and wall.

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

- Meals were provided by the service for full day care children which are cooked by the local meals on wheels service on site.
- All sessional children provide their own food.
- All perishable food brought in by children was refrigerated.
- Two daily hot meals were available to the children attending full day care, one being a dinner and the other being homemade soup on a set daily menu.
- The menu displayed a variety of main meals provided throughout the week.
- Alternative food is provided to a child if needed. The meals were of adequate portion size.
- On the day of the inspection, examples of children’s mid-morning snacks included cheese, crackers, sandwiches, grapes and strawberries. Lunch consisted of meat , vegetables and potatoes.
- Drinks were accessible to the children at all times and water was the main choice of drink.
- Children expressing hunger were provided with access to snacks if needed.
- The children appeared to have a nutritionally balanced diet on the day of inspection.
- The inspector was advised that one child has a specific dietary requirement and this was incorporated into his meal plan for the day.
- A food sugar content chart was on the wall to educate children about healthy foods.

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 doors to the care rooms were secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and prevent unauthorised persons entering the rooms.
- The T.V cables observed were out of the reach of the children.
- The cleaning agents observed were stored on high level shelving out of the reach of the children.
- The first aid boxes were stored out of the reach of the children, in the pre-school room it was stored on a high-level shelf and in the creche it was stored within a high-level cupboard.
- Blind cords observed were secured.

Safe Sleep:

- The air temperature of the sleep room was recorded at 18.3c
- Available Sleep plans were reviewed, and evidence was available that the plan was developed with parental involvement.
- Staff had records of 10-minute sleep checks completed.

Infection Control:

- The Children's drinks bottles were individually labelled.
- The outdoor areas were observed to be clean, the area serving the pre-school room was power hosed on the morning prior the inspection commenced.
- There was a supply of disposable plastic aprons and disposable gloves at the nappy changing unit for use during nappy changing.

Administration of Medication:

- There were no children in receipt of medication as advised by the staff members on the day of the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Pre-school room

1. The children observed on the morning of the inspection playing in the hall had access to 4 sets of fire exit doors that were easily openable with low level push bar release openings. This included

- 2 doors exited out to the carpark and the roadway,
- 1 door to the outdoor play area serving the pre-school room where an unsecured gate opened out to the carpark and the roadway
- 1 door opened out to an area that stored disused and broken play items posing a risk of injury to the children.

These doors posed a risk of injury to the children. It was acknowledged on 18/10/'24 the person in charge furnished the inspector with a quotation in respect of alarms for each of the 4 sets of doors that will be fitted.

2. There were 2 unsecured doors at either side of the stage in the hall where children could access the stage area and storage areas posing a risk of injury to children.
3. There was an unsecured computer tower stored on the floor in the pre-school room posing a risk of injury to children.
4. Within a low-level unsecured cupboard there were plastic aprons stored posing a suffocation risk to children.
5. The grid on 1 radiator cover in the pre-school room was broken posing a risk of injury to children.
6. Within the outdoor area there was a stainless-steel wall mounted cover fitted over pipes, the cover was not secured adequately, and it was rusted with sharp edges at the bottom posing a risk of injury to children.
7. There was a wall mounted timber structure used to hang toys located in the outdoor area serving the children attending the pre-school. It had loose splinters posing a risk of injury to children.
8. There were holes in the soft matting surface posing a risk of injury to children.
9. There were plastic aprons, cleaning wipes and open plastic bags of nappies stored on low level shelving in the sanitary/nappy changing accommodation serving the creche posing a risk of injury to children.

Infection Control:

10. There was no warm water provided at the wash hand basins in the children's sanitary accommodation serving the pre-school room to enable children to effectively wash their hands after using the toilet. This posed a risk of cross infection.
11. A beaker of milk for 1 child attending the pre-school room was stored in the room for the duration of the session. On discussion with the staff the beaker was not placed in the fridge on the child's arrival to the service.

12. The children's crockery used at mealtimes was stored in a cupboard located in the lobby of the sanitary accommodation, the door of which was observed open posing a risk of cross infection.
13. There was an uncovered teat on a child's bottle stored in the fridge in the creche posing a risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. There were 4 alarms fitted to the 4 fire exit doors. The Policy and Procedure on the use of the hall has been updated to include that the fire exit doors with the alarms in place must be turned on before the children enter the hall.
2. A key for each of the doors to lock them is now available for the staff. The Policy and Procedure for the use of the hall has been updated to include that both doors must be locked before the children enter the hall. The keys will be kept with the keys used for the playroom.
3. The computer tower has been removed and replaced with a laptop. No computer towers will be stored in the room.
4. The plastic aprons were removed to a high-level press out of the reach of the children and the staff have been informed of this.
5. The radiator cover has been replaced. Should the cover break in the future it will be replaced immediately.
6. A timber structure (painted with chalk paint, now used for children as a chalk board) was used to enclose the stainless-steel cover.
7. The timber structure was removed.
8. The areas with the holes in the outdoor matting were replaced with a suitable sealed matting. Any further holes observed will be replaced immediately.
9. The plastic aprons, bags and other plastic equipment are now stored on a high shelf. Staff are reminded that all plastics are to be stored out of the reach of the children.

Infection Control:

10. The Manager of the centre was informed that no warm water was available. The children are using the sink with warm water in the playroom to wash their hands. Hand-washing signs are placed on the wall near the said sink.

11. The staff have been informed that all the children's beakers will be placed in the fridge provided in the dining room.
12. The items have been placed in sealed plastic boxes and are now stored on a shelf in the playroom.
13. Staff will ensure that all covers for bottles are provided by the parents.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Pre-school room

1. Photographs demonstrating the alarms in place on the doors, an invoice outlining the work carried out for the alarms fitted and the updated Policy and Procedure on the use of the hall.
2. The Policy and Procedure on the use of the hall and photographs of keys provided for the doors.
3. A photograph of the computer tower removed from the room.
4. A photograph of the aprons re-located out of the reach of the children.
5. A photograph of the new radiator cover in place.
6. A photograph of the newly constructed timber chalk board over the stainless-steel covering.
7. A photograph of the area with the timber structure removed.
8. Photographs of the soft matting sections with replacement matting.
9. A photograph of the items relocated to a high-level shelf in the sanitary accommodation.

Infection Control:

10. The statement is accepted as evidence.
11. The statement is accepted as evidence.
12. A photograph of the crockery in sealed boxes located on a high shelf in the playroom.
13. The statement is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement 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) The registered provider ensured that there were staff available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. The FAR certifications indicated that 6 staff members held current up to date training.

(2) (a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available to the children attending. The boxes were stored at a high level out of the reach of the children, 1 on high level shelving in the pre-school room and 1 wall mounted in a high-level cupboard in the creche.

(b) The first aid equipment was available to the children 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 were openable windows as a means of air circulation in the care rooms, sleep room and in the creche sanitary accommodation/nappy changing.
 - The air temperature in the creche was recorded at 18 degrees Celsius and in the playroom was recorded at 20 degrees Celsius.

(d)

- The premise appeared clean. The ceiling tiles in the pre-school room were clean and intact.

(e)

- The nappy changing unit and its surrounds were suitable for the age and the needs of the children attending on the day of the inspection.
- A hands free, sealed pedal operated lidded bin was used for the disposal of used nappies.
- There were 2 clean, dry covered potties provided for children training to use the toilet.
- There were enough sanitary facilities for children's use within the premises.