

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY037				
Name of Service:	Currow Playschool				
Address of Service:	Currow, Killarney, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V93 E981				
Name of Registered Provider:	Catherine Fleming				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	09/04/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>15</td> <td>PM</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	AM	15	PM	None
AM	15	PM	None		
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

Currow Playschool is a private early years service that provides education and care to children aged from 2 years to 6 years, offering sessional care. The service is registered to operate 2 sessions, 1 session between the 9:00am and 12 mid-day and the 2nd session between the hours of 12:15pm and 3:15pm. Currently the morning session only is in operation. At the time of the inspection the children attending were aged between 3 years and 5 years

Staffing

There are 2 adults employed in the service that includes the registered provider.

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 registered provider, staff member 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 deputy named.
- (b) The registered provider was present when the inspector arrived on the premises and remained for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- The registered provider confirmed that 2 adults are employed to work in the service.
- The recruitment records in respect of 2 adults attached to the service were the subject of the inspection.
- (a)
- Of the 4 references required, 2 were from previous employers with a record of validation.
- (b)
- Of the 4 references required, 2 were from a source other than a past employer with a record of validation.
- (c)
- Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 2 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)
- Not applicable as no adult had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) The registered provider working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 6 and above.

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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.
- (3) There were 2 adults caring for 15 children aged between 3 years to 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

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:

- During the inspection, there was a relaxed, calm and playful environment provided by the 2 adults caring for the children.

- The adults spoke kindly to the children offering praise and encouragement throughout the play activities.
- The children had unlimited access to the toilets located in the playroom. The children were independently using the toilet, the adults issued reminders for the children to wash their hands afterwards.
- The inspector observed the children were promptly accompanied inside from the outdoor play time to use the toilet as was needed with the adults communicating with each other when leaving the area.
- The children had sufficient floor space indoors and in the outdoor area to move about freely.
- The food consumed by the children is provided by the parents/guardians. The children took their morning snack in the designated outdoor enclosed play area after the Easter Egg hunt activity. They sat on the soft matting together and had ample time to eat the sandwiches and selection of fruit observed.
- The adults sat with the children throughout the mealtime.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- The adults were observed interacting, supporting and assisting the children in play activities, encouraging them to interact with each other.
- An Easter Egg hunt was set up in the grass pitch located directly at the rear of the premise. The children were organised into pairs accompanied by the adults, they followed the Easter bunny footprint trail to find the Easter eggs and place them in easter baskets provided. The activity was clearly enjoyed by the children.
- The session had a mixture of adult led activities for example story time and child directed play for example colouring Easter eggs.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The playroom was observed to be bright, clean and it was airy. There was adequate space between the play materials and equipment for the children to play with.
- The playroom was equipped and furnished with a large variety of age-appropriate play materials. The play materials were accessible to the children on low level open shelving, on the floor and in open boxes, this promoted independent access and freedom of choice by the children as observed throughout the inspection.
- In one corner of the room the children made their own "Bat cave", a large sheet was placed over tuff trays beneath which some children were colouring, and some were relaxing and chatting to each other whilst sitting on the soft cushions provided.
- The rest area in the room consisted of a spacious soft couch, soft matting and cushions.

- There were a number of interest areas such as a home area, a reading area, tabletop activities, a easter themed tuff tray with easter eggs and chickens for example, a dress-up area and a farm area. There was a selection of blocks, vehicles and dolls.
- The room was colourfully decorated with Easter themed decorations and children’s artwork some of which was displayed at their level on the front of cupboards and on the playroom entrance door.
- There was an adequate number of child sized tables and chairs for the number attending the service on the day of inspection.
- There was a list displayed on the children’s emerging interests and a record of the mobile library visits to the service.
- There was a spacious outdoor play area with a partially covered in area available to the children at all times. There were a number of well-developed interest area including a tuff tray with bark mulch and dinosaurs, play kitchens, a sand table, balancing beams, a basketball hoop on a stand and basket balls, large blocks, playhouses, soft balls and a selection of ride on toys and push toys.

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 door was secured to prevent children from leaving the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access.
- The outdoor area was secured with fencing and gates to prevent children gaining unsupervised access to the roadway and to prevent unauthorised access into the area.
- The children were accompanied by an adult when going indoors to use the toilet on inspection.

Infection Control:

- The children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and used hand sanitiser prior to eating in the outdoor play area.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There was a nail exposed on the panting box used by the service posing a risk of injury to the children.
2. The front of 1 radiator grid in the playroom was broken posing a risk of injury to the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The planter was removed. A new planter will be purchased.
2. The radiator cover was repaired. A new radiator cover will be purchased.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the area with the planter removed.
2. A photograph of the repaired radiator cover.

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) The registered provider did ensure that there was a person available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. Both adults had FAR training certifications that demonstrated the training expired on 01/04/'25. Currently 1 adult is completing the FAR refresher training due for completion on 12.04.'25. The inspector was furnished with written evidence of the said training in progress.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was stored up high, out of reach of children and was clearly identifiable in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was suitably stocked for the number of children attending the service and was available for the adult to attend to the children if required.

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*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (c)
- Within the playroom and sanitary accommodation, natural lighting was provided through windows and this was supplemented with artificial lighting.
 - Adequate heating was ensured in the playroom and sanitary facilities to ensure the room temperature was maintained within the range of 18-22 degrees Celsius.
 - The playroom and the sanitary facilities were supplied with natural ventilation, through openable windows.
- (e)
- The service had adequate and suitable sanitary facilities available to them in the playroom. There were 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins with warm running water with the temperature of the water did not exceed 43 degrees Celsius. There was a supply of liquid soap, disposable paper towels and lidded pedal-operated bins.