

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY045
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Name of Service:	Firies Community Childcare Centre CLG
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Address of Service:	Church Road, Firies, Killarney, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V93 FF8X
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Name of Registered Provider:	James Daly
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	10/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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Inspection undertaken by:	N Reidy & D Cotter
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

Firies Community Childcare CLG is a community based early years service registered to provide sessional and part-time day care to children aged between 2 years and 6 years. There are 2 sessions provided within the registered operating hours between the hours of 8:50am and 11:50 am and 11:55 am and 2:55 pm, Monday to Friday. The service also caters for school aged care including provision of a breakfast club.

The service operates from the community centre with 2 rooms, a spacious playroom and a quiet room. There is a designated secured outdoor play area with a covered in section located to the rear of the building and a green area to the front of the building. The service also has a kitchen, foyer and sanitary accommodations.

Staffing

There are currently 9 adults attached to the service. One of these is the registered provider who does not work on site. There is one student on placement and 7 adults employed by the service at present.

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. The inspection 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 a named deputy person in charge.
- (b) A person in charge was on the premises at all times during the operation of the service on the day of inspection.
- (c) There was a clearly identified management structure in the service. This included person in charge, deputy person in charge, and early years educators.
- (2) There are seven staff and one student attached to the service; there is also a registered provider who is not service based. All nine staff files were open to inspection.
- (a) Of the 18 references required, 8 validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) Of the 18 references required, 10 validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all nine adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was deemed to be required for two of the nine adults attached to the service. The copy of the police vetting was stored on file for the two staff members.
- (4) All staff working directly with children held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
- (3) On the day of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation with three staff working with 13 children of preschool age. There was also a student who was supernumerary.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that all required information (a) to (g) was on display in the reception area and available to any parent.

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 children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their individual level of independence. This was evidenced for example when children were washing their hands prior to the snack time and after using the toilet.
- The children were afforded enough time to eat and enjoy their food without being rushed as observed at the morning snack time.
- The crockery and cutlery available for the children were suitable for the age and development stages of the children attending.
- Conversations between the adults and the children ensued during snack time in a relaxed, calm environment.
- The children who wished to eat their food outside the snack time were facilitated to do so as evidenced whereby a lunch box was left open on the low-level table for independent access.
- The staff facilitated opportunities for small and large group activities and play as evidenced during the inspection.
- A small group activity included for example playing at the “Arctic scene” set in the tuff tray. The tray had polar with ice cubes provided by the service. The children enjoyed this activity talking about the animals in the arctic circle, the weather there and playing the ice cubes melting in their hands.
- The staff member conducting this activity was observed to encourage the children to wash their hands with the warm water at the sinks in the sanitary during this activity as their hands were cold from handling the ice cubes.
- Circle time was facilitated in the room with the allocated rest area, the children sat on the large rug and on cushions on the floor. The children sang songs and rhymes and discussed the weather. The child of the day was asked to dress the “weather frog” chart appropriately for the weather on the day.
- The staff were cognisant of children’s needs as observed when children did not wish to participate in small and large group activities and supported children in one to one activities instead.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located in the playroom and the inspector observed the children using the toilets independently, with the staff on hand to provide assistance if required.
- The children had access to a designated rest area located in a room adjacent to the playroom. The rest area consisted of a large, covered mattress, cushions, pillows and blankets on a nearby shelf.

Supporting Relationships: -

- Since the last inspection the service has developed a “Whats’s App” group providing the parents with for example details of the curriculum themes, upcoming events in the service, a reminder of the healthy eating guidelines and of photographs with the children engaging in various activities during their time in the service.
- Children’s family photographs were displayed on a family tree on the wall in the playroom.
- The staff encouraged and supported the children to feed themselves independently, assisting the children with opening yogurt pots for example.
- Staff spoke to the children in low soft tones of voice, coming down to their level making eye contact with them.
- Children were observed to be comfortable and confident in the environment, the children who finished their food before the others were observed to tidy up independently and choose a tabletop activity.
- The staff encouraged the children to interact and to engage with a wide range of materials, activities and equipment in the indoor and in the outdoor environment based on the children’s own choices, interests and their age and stage of development.
- The staff were observed to interact with the children in a kind, caring, supportive manner. The children sought support of the staff; the staff were prompt in responding to individual children’s needs.

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.

(2) A registered provider-

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

- (a) The registered provider has ensured that there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors. It was observed on the day of inspection that the large playroom hosts a wide range of play equipment with ample numbers of resources available to children. The equipment is contained at child height making it accessible to all children

There were clearly defined areas of play including, construction, tabletop activities, sensory activities and a home corner. The outdoor areas were observed to be accessible to children on the day of inspection.

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day in the smaller room. There rest area was complete with soft furnishings and fairy lights away from the larger care room, creating a very inviting rest area. There was a supply of linens available.
- (b) There are two large outdoor areas for children to explore throughout the day, one to the rear of the service and one to the front of the building. On the day of inspection, the inspectors observed children at play in the outdoor area to the rear of the service. Through direct observation, this area appeared to be safe and secure with an abundance of play equipment. The outdoor area to the rear of the service has a covered area to enable children to play outdoors regardless of the weather.

Both areas are secure with gates and fences to ensure children’s safety. The outdoor area to the rear of the building has shock absorbent flooring to mitigate the risk of injury.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The play and work equipment observed on inspection were well maintained.
- The seating and tables used for mealtimes and for tabletop-top activities were suited to the age and stage of development of the children.
- There was a wide variety of suitable toys and materials to support various forms of play for example fine motor, gross motor, language development and imaginative play.

- The materials and equipment in the playroom and in the outdoor area were arranged so they were readily visible and accessible to promote independent, free access by the children at all times.
- The person in charge was observed to go to the outdoor play area prior to the children went outside. She cleaned down the seating and the slide, opened up the spacious covered sand pits, took the ride on toys, cars, toys for playing with in the sand pits, pots, pans and other accessories for the toy kitchen and other toys from the storage placing them down at the various interest areas for the children's use.
- The outdoor area had a spacious covered in area resourced with sand pits, the toy kitchen, a timber tippee, a chalk board and children's seating.

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

- On the day of inspection, examples of the mid-morning snacks were noted to include rice cakes, sandwiches, a selection of fruit and yogurts.
- The children's water bottles were stored at child height and were accessible to the children at all times throughout the day.
- During discussion, the person in charge confirmed that snacks would be offered to any child who became hungry outside of the allocated mealtimes.
 - There was a selection of food available in the kitchen should any child forget their lunch, this included, fresh fruit, bread, cheese and crackers.

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 kitchen was secured to prevent the children's access unsupervised.
- The external door was appropriately secured to restrict unauthorised access into the premises.

- The playroom door was secured with number keypads to prevent children exiting unsupervised.
- The emergency exits were unobstructed.
- The cleaning agents seen on inspection were stored in the secure kitchen.
- There were five staff with in date First Aid (FAR) certifications working in the service with the children.

Infection Control:

- The staff cleaned each of the child sized chairs and the tables after the snack time.
- The premise and its fixtures and fitting were observed to be clean and dry.
- The service maintains daily cleaning schedules.
- The windows in the service were open to provide natural ventilation.
- There was a supply of warm water, antibacterial soap, disposable paper hand towels for effective hand washing by the children and the adults to reduce the spread of infection.

Fire Safety:

- Records displayed demonstrated the service for the fire alarm and maintenance for the fire extinguishers took place on 5/2/2025.
- The evacuation procedure in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that each pre-school child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by an employee on the day of inspection.

The registered provider has ensured that any person other than an employee, a preschool child of a person dropping the child off cannot gain entry to the premises.

(b) The Inspectors were asked to sign the visitors book on arrival, and it was evident that a record is kept of any such person who enters the service