

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY103
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Name of Service:	Oakview Village Childcare
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Address of Service:	Orchard Way, Oakview Village, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V92 X516
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Name of Registered Provider:	Timothy Cread
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	30/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	101	PM	68
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy & D Cotter
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).

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Description of service

Oakview Village Childcare is a privately owned early years service that provides full day care, part-time and sessional care, catering for children between the age of 0 to 6 years. The service operates between the hours of 07:30 am and 6:30 pm Monday to Friday inclusive, incorporating the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The premise is a purpose-built facility; there are seven playrooms allocated to early years children. The service provides school aged care. There are designated enclosed outdoor play areas situated to the rear and to the side of the buildings available and accessible to the children each day.

Staffing

Currently, there are 39 adults attached to the service. This includes, the operations manager, administrative staff, a maintenance person, two cleaners, three students and an allocated person for kitchen duties. The registered provider is not service based.

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 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

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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.*

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(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was a designated person in charge in the service and a named person who was able to deputise if needed.
- (b) The designated person in charge and the named person was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place in the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that 11 new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Ten of these staff worked directly with children. On the day of inspection, two students were present on an educational work placement. A total of 13 files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for 4 staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.
- (a) Twenty-three of the required twenty-six references were available from a past employer and were validated.
- (b) Three of the required twenty-six references were available from another source and were validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 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 required and had been obtained for two staff members who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

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(3) Recruitment records demonstrated that vetting procedures were carried out prior to the thirteen adults commencing employment in the service.

(4) Evidence of completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent was on file for 6 staff members and four staff members held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality. A qualification was not needed by 2 students, and a domestic assistant.

(7) Following a review of staff records it was evident that the service had completed check lists of induction meetings with the staff, completed induction training records and information sharing in relation to the policies and procedures of the service.

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) There was an adequate number of adults 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:

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Room name	Type of Service	Age Range	Number of children present	Number of adults present	Minimum number of adults required
Nursery	Full day care	1-2 years	13	3	3
Junior Playschool	Full day care	2.2-2.8 years	15	3 staff plus 1 student	3
Preschool 3	Full day care and Sessional	3-4 years	14	3	2
Naionra	Full day care and Sessional	4-5 years	20	2	2
Preschool 1	Full day care and Sessional	3-5 years	10	2	1
Preschool 2	Full day care and Sessional	2.11-4 years	21	3	2
The Cabin	Sessional	1.9-2.10 years	8	2	2

Afternoon:

Room name	Type of Service	Age Range	Number of children present	Number of adults present	Minimum number of adults required
Nursery	Full day care	1-2 years	14	3	3
Junior Playschool	Full day care	2.2-2.8 years	13	3 staff plus 1 student	3
Preschool 3	Full day care and Sessional	3-4 years	6	2	1

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Naionra	Full day care and Sessional	4-5 years	15	2	2
Preschool 1	Full day care and Sessional	3-5 years	6	1	1
Preschool 2	Full day care and Sessional	2.11-4 years	14	2	2
The Cabin	Sessional		None		

(8) (a) The service was operated with at least two adults present at all times, as indicated through review of the staff roster.

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:

- Food and snacks provided by the parents/guardians for the children were served regularly throughout the day.
- The main hot meal served at 12 noon approximately was provided by the service. The meal consisted of chicken, mashed potatoes and vegetables. There were additional portions of vegetables provided as was observed in the Nursery and in the Junior pre-school.
- The staff in the Nursery informed the inspector children's individual dietary needs are met in consultation with the parents as evidenced by the main meal served.
- The children's individually labelled drink's bottles and cups were readily available to the children throughout the session, as observed in the Junior pre-school room and in pre-school room 3.
- The staff in the Nursery served the drinks to the children outside of and at mealtimes from the tray kept near the sink.

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- The staff informed that cooled boiled water was served to the children in the Nursery, a jug was kept chilled in the fridge.
- In discussion, the staff members stated that no children in the nursery were in receipt of bottles of milk.
- The food for the main meal that required to be pureed for individual children was done so as was observed in the Nursery.
- At the mealtimes observed, the children sat at the low-level tables on the low-level chairs and the younger children sat in the high feeding chairs fitted with the safety harness.
- Clean and dry bibs were observed on the children in the Nursery and Junior pre-school rooms for children when eating their food.
- Nappy changing for the younger children was carried out at regular times during the day as observed in the Nursery.
- Children had unrestricted access to the toilets, independently accessing them as observed in pre-school room 3.
- The children's individual toileting needs were addressed in consultation with the parents, such as children who were transitioning from nappies to potty training in the Junior pre-school room.
- The children enjoyed free movement in the spacious playrooms and in the outdoor play areas under staff supervision.
- Adult seating was provided in the Nursery to comfort, feed and nurture young children.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- In conversation with the staff members, they stated a number of communication methods are used to exchange information with parents. Examples included, verbally at drop off and at collection times and electronically on the care room tablets where staff record the children's food taken, sleep and nappy changing.
- The staff were observed to communicate well with the children, they sat with the children at mealtimes, for example in the Junior pre-school room assisting with feeding and encouraging self-feeding. In the Nursery the staff fed the children as needed encouraging, supporting and praising children who could feed themselves.
- Staff in the Naionra supported children's learning by engaging with children in their play. For example, the children were observed to partake in a music and movement activity with the children. Staff were also

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observed to encourage independence skills by praising children as they put on their coats themselves in preparation for outdoor play.

- Staff were observed to redirect behaviours in a calm and respectful manner. For example, in the outdoor area, a child had brought a bike up onto a seating area. A staff member asked the child to come down and when they refused, the staff member went down to the child's level and spoke in soft tones about the dangers of using bikes in places they shouldn't be. The child then came down of their own accord.
- On the day of inspection, it was reported to the inspector that regular team meetings are held to enable the sharing of information.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The care rooms were spacious and were laid out in clearly defined areas with a selection of play materials and equipment suitable for the age groups.
- The toys and play materials were supplied on low level open shelving units in the rooms, on the floor and on racks. This supported children to readily and independently access them, offering continuous choice.
- The younger children in the Nursery had access to a spacious area furnished with an array of soft matting and cushioning. The area was separate from the rest of the room by means of low-level fencing and a gate that remained open throughout the day so they could transition in and out as they wanted to, under adult supervision and care. The children were observed to play with handheld toys for example.
- The outdoor play areas were equipped with a range of developmentally appropriate equipment which promoted fine motor and gross motor skills. There was a variety of fixed play equipment such as play units with swings and slides, ride on toys, play kitchens, playhouses and sand play. There were areas with partial overhead covering providing shelter from the weather.

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.

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Compliance Information

(1)(b)

- There were adequate rest facilities available to the children dependant on their sleep and rest requirements.
- The rest areas in the playrooms (Pre-school 1, 3, Naionra, Junior-pre-school) consisted of soft furnishings and matting and were in a quieter area away from the main play areas.
- There were 2 sleep rooms provided in the nursery with 7 cots in each room.
- There was a designated sleep room in the Junior pre-school equipped with stackable beds and in addition, as observed on inspection additional beds were positioned in the playroom for 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 main entrance door to the centre was secured with a buzzer system in place. All visitors to the centre report and sign in at the reception.
- Cleaning agents observed on inspection were stored high out of the reach of the children.
- The blind cords observed were secured out of the reach of the children.
- The children attending the pre-school rooms 2 & 3 in the afternoon were observed to safely use the stairway when going outside to play. There 2 adults who accompanied the children down the adequately lit stairway. One adult lead the group down and the second adult stayed behind them, ensuring that the children held the handrails.
- The staff attached to pre-school room 3 informed the inspector the digital attendance record is taken outdoors for the staff to sign out the children as they go home from the outdoors.
- The outdoor play areas were secured with a mix of concrete walls, high level fencing and gates to prevent children exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access in.
- A timber gate located in the outdoor area serving the cabin was adequately secured to restrict unauthorised access to or exit from the area.

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- The air to water units, located between the two cabins, were adequately fenced off to prevent children gaining access to them.

Infection Control:

- The sinks observed in use by the adults and children had a supply of thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap, disposable paper hand towels and pedal operated bins for the disposal of waste.
- The nappy changing areas observed in use were equipped with clean and intact nappy changing mats, and the surrounds were maintained in a clean condition.
- The staff identified the coloured cloths and disinfectant spray used for cleaning down the areas after each nappy change as was the practice observed by the inspector.
- There were lidded, sealed and pedal operated lidded bins in use for the hygienic disposal of nappies provided at the nappy changing stations.
- The linen used for the cots and beds observed on inspection was noted to be individual to each child.
- The staff stated when asked the routine cleaning schedule of the cots after each use. Laundering of the linen is done at the end of each week and as needed in between.
- The cot mattresses had protective waterproof covers and some mattresses were waterproof.
- The nappy changing practices observed on inspection and as stated in conversation with the staff were carried in a hygienic manner out to reduce the risk of cross contamination.
- The children's individual toiletries observed were labelled.
- Sandpits observed in the Cabin outdoor area had been covered.

Safe Sleep:

- The inspector observed the staff conducted physical sleep checks on the children who slept in the sleep rooms during the inspection in the allocated sleep rooms in the Nursery and in the Junior pre-school rooms.
- The inspector reviewed the electronic sleep records that demonstrated that the children's breathing, colour and position were assessed at 10-minute intervals.
- In conversation, the staff in the Nursery stated that they remain in the sleep room until children have settled to sleep and remove any comfort toy or blanket when asleep as evidenced on inspection.
- Staff stayed with the children who slept in the Junior pre-school sleep room (1 adult) and in the playroom (2 adults). The lighting was reduced; the blinds were pulled to create a calm relaxed rest environment. and on the low-level beds in the playroom. The lighting was reduced and staff were observed to sit on the floor next to the beds soothing children to rest and sleep.

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- On inspection the cots and beds used were noted to have the required 50cm spacing between each.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- There was a broken, disused play unit in the outdoor area serving the nursery posing a risk of injury to children.
- The bases of some of the tree stumps in the outdoor areas had areas wearing away with loose timber splinters posing a risk of injury to children.
- There were timber splinters exposed where a timber slat was removed on a planting area in the outdoor area posing a risk of injury to children.
- In the Nursery, there were loose strings of fabric exposed, as observed when children pulled the cushion off the chair, posing a risk of injury to children.

Infection Control:

- The staff bathroom on the ground floor was not equipped with a foot operated pedal bin. This posed a risk of cross infection.
- The foot operated pedal bin the staff bathroom on the first floor was broken. This posed a risk of cross infection.
- Two of the white cots, one in each of the sleep rooms in the Nursery had scuffed areas impacting on the ability to clean the surfaces adequately posing a risk of the spread of infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The broken and disused play unit was immediately removed and disposed. The outdoor area was inspected to ensure that no additional hazards were present. The staff were reminded that a formal outdoor equipment inspection procedure is in place. Any damaged or unsafe equipment identified should be removed immediately from use and reported to management for repair or disposal. A monthly reminder document was issued to the staff.
- The bases of the tree stumps were sanded down and covered with a protective layer of artificial grass to reduce the risk of splintering and enhance the safety of the outdoor play environment. The monthly maintenance checks have been updated to include a thorough inspection of all tree stumps to identify any signs of damage, wear, or potential splintering hazards.

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3. All the timber slats were removed and replaced with new timber slats. Prior to installation, each timber slat was thoroughly sanded down to ensure there were no splinters or rough surfaces present. There will be monthly maintenance checks of the area carried out. The monthly maintenance checklist has been updated to ensure the area is routinely monitored.
4. The loose strings of fabric were immediately removed and the hazard was eliminated. The chair and surrounding furnishings were inspected to ensure there were no additional exposed materials or risks present. The staff were informed of the issue and the action taken was recorded in the service health and safety records. All the soft furnishings, cushions and fabrics within the service will be included in a daily visual safety check and regular room inspections. Any damaged, frayed or worn materials will be removed from use immediately and repaired or disposed of. The staff will remain vigilant in identifying potential hazards when setting up the room and throughout the day to ensure the children's environment remain safe and compliant.

Infection Control:

5. A suitable foot-operated pedal bin was immediately put in place in the bathroom.
6. The broken foot operated bin was replaced with a functioning pedal bin. The staff have been reminded not to unclip the lids from the foot operated bins as this has been identified as a contributing factor to the bins becoming damaged and non-functional. A reminder has been included in the staff monthly newsletter outlining the importance of using the equipment appropriately to maintain infection control standards and to prevent unnecessary breakages.
7. Both cots have been replaced as it was not possible to repair the scuffed areas. The staff have been asked to check the cots regularly. The service is currently working to source plastic protective covering for the cots.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the play unit in the refuse bin.
2. A photograph of the covered tree stumps and the updated maintenance list.
3. A photograph of the new timber slats in place and the updated monthly maintenance checklist.
4. A photograph of the chair with the fabric removed.

Infection Control:

5. A photograph of the new pedal bin in place.
6. A photograph of the new pedal bin in place.

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7. The statement is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

All documentation received was examined. The requirement has been met for this regulation.

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 has ensured that there was person trained in first aid at all times available to the children. Through the inspection of staff records and the roster for the service it was noted that there were two adults with First Aid Responder (FAR) training available to the children at all times.

2.

(a) (b) There was a fully equipped first aid box in playrooms 1, 2 and the Naionra which were stored safely out of reach of children but easily accessible to staff.

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,

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Compliance Information

(b) The premise was observed to be safe and secure.

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Non-Compliance Information

(d)

Outdoor play areas

1. There was a hole in the overhead Perspex roof.
2. The base of a section of the picket fencing in front of pipes was broken.
3. There was one horizontal slat of the picket fencing that was not secured.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The Perspex roof has been replaced to ensure the area is safe, secure and maintained to an appropriate standard. The roof is added to the monthly maintenance checks to ensure that any damage will be repaired immediately.
2. The picket fence was removed in full and replaced with a new fence. Each of the areas of the timber fencing and wooden structures have been added to the monthly maintenance checklist.
3. All the horizontal slats on the picket fence were inspected and secured with nails where required. There was a full safety check completed to ensure that all the slats were securely fixed and stable. All fencing and wooden structures are included in the monthly maintenance list.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. A photograph of the new Perspex roof in place and the updated maintenance checklist.
2. A photograph of the new picket fencing and the updated maintenance checklist.
3. A photograph of the horizontal timber fencing slats secured.

Summary Comment

All documentation was examined. The requirement has been met.