

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LD027			
Name of Service:	Legan Community Childcare Ltd			
Address of Service:	Naoi Rath Ré, Smithfield Crescent, Legan, Co. Longford			
Eircode:	N39 K228			
Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Gettings			
Service type:	Part Time			
Date of Inspection:	09/09/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	n/a
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.			
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan			
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	Not applicable			

Description of service

Legan Community Childcare Ltd is a community-based service established in 2007 and is located in the rural village of Legan, Co. Longford. It operates a part-time and sessional service for pre-school children aged 0 to 6 years and is located in a purpose-built premises which has three care rooms, sanitary facilities including nappy changing, an office, a kitchen, a laundry room and a staff room. There were two care rooms operational on the day of the inspection. A spacious and secure outdoor area is located at the sides and rear of the premises. Set down and parking is available.

Staffing

Legan Community Childcare Ltd employs four childcare staff. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. All adults working in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

- Regulation 9 (1), (2), (4)- Management and Recruitment.
- Regulation 11 (1), (2),(8)(a) - Staffing levels.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

- Regulation 24 – Checking in and out and record of attendance.
- Regulation 25 – First Aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures
- Regulation 27 – Supervision.
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.

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.

Additional Information

1. A written immediate action notice under Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child was issued to the person in charge onsite by the Early Years Inspector on 9 September 2025.
A written response and documentary evidence was submitted by the person in charge to the Early Years Inspector on 10 September 2025. The response was accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes 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

(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

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that there were four staff employed.

- (2)
- (a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of four adults whose records were reviewed.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. 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 available for one adult who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months whose records were reviewed.
- (4) Four adults working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher 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.*
- (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) The adult to child ratio was always maintained during the inspection.
- (2) There were twelve children attending the service being supervised directly by three adults during the inspection.
- (8)(a) The staff roster indicated that there was always a minimum of two adults on the premises.

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 door to the service was electronically secured and managed by staff members to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised or unauthorised entry.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

There was documentary evidence available that daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed daily and reviewed by the manager weekly to promptly identify and manage any potential risks in the care rooms. The service had a system in place to manage maintenance issues.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members were familiar with the importance of handwashing practice as a means to control the spread of infection in the service. They supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Nappy changing practices were consistent with the nappy change procedure for the service. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal and containment of used tissues.

Children's lunches were refrigerated on arrival at the service.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the two room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medicine was not given at the time of the inspection; written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with the required practices when administering medication and documentation of same. Medicine was safely stored in the service.

Safe Sleep:

Comfortable rest areas were available for the children in each care room if they wished to take a break from activities and rest. There were facilities available for children attending on a part time basis requiring sleep or rest.

A sleep room was available with four cots for any child requiring sleep aged under 2 years.

Fire Safety:

The staff members were familiar with the fire evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed. Fire drills were carried out and records maintained.

Outing:

The service does not conduct outings.

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.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (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.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

- (1) The person in charge ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in the care room.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a)(b) The person in charge ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained. The person in charge ensured that the inspectors entry to the service was recorded in the visitor log.
- (4) The person in charge confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

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

(2)

(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the two care rooms.

(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There were no staff members present trained in in first aid response (FAR) and immediately available to the children attending the service.

A written immediate action notice under Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child was issued to the person in charge onsite by the Early Years Inspector on 9 September 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)

- Successfully completed the full FAR course on Wednesday 1st October, thereby restoring compliance with Regulation 25(1) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016, which requires at least one person with FAR training to always be available. A Training Compliance Tracker has been introduced to monitor all staff training and certification, with a specific focus on expiry dates for FAR, Children First, Fire Safety, and Manual Handling.
- Automated reminders are now set up (via calendar/email alerts) to notify management at least 3 months in advance of any expiring training requirements.
- All mandatory training will be booked well in advance to ensure uninterrupted compliance with Tusla's regulatory requirements.

- A nominated staff member has been assigned the responsibility of reviewing training records and ensuring all documentation is current and accessible for inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1) FAR certificate, template tracker for mandatory training in the service.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the manager on behalf of the registered provider have been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 25(1).

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 9 July 2025.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment was serviced on 16 October 2024, and the smoke alarm was serviced on 17 December 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The children were observed being supervised at all times throughout the inspection by the adults caring for them both indoors in their care rooms and while using the sanitary areas.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2026. The insurance provided cover for 40 children.