

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LD030		
Name of Service:	Granard Community Childcare Facility		
Address of Service:	The Hill, Granard, Co. Longford		
Eircode:	N39 TF25		
Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline O Reilly		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	09/03/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	73	PM 71
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 and F. Maher.		
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	Not applicable.		

Description of service

Granard Community Childcare Facility was established in 1991 as a community non-profit service. The service offers full day-care, part-time care and sessional provision from 8.00 am to 18.00 hrs, for children aged between 0 to 6 years, from Monday to Friday. School age care is also provided.

There are six pre-school rooms, an office area, reception areas, two sleep rooms, storage areas and a kitchen in the service. Five preschool rooms were operational on the day of inspection. The outdoor play area is located at the side and rear of the premises.

Parking and set down is available outside the premises on the public road.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service and was not present for the inspection. Thirty-four adults are working in the service. On the day of the inspection there were twenty four adults present and of these, seventeen staff members and one student on placement were working directly with the children, the person in charge and the deputy person in charge provided additional support to the care rooms as needed; a cook was employed to prepare food for the children daily, and the caretaker was onsite. Two contractors from an external company were present providing a play and music activity class in the care rooms.

All staff members working directly with preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education or a qualification recognised as equivalent on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under

- Regulation 19(1)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child.
- Regulation 20(1)(b) – Facilities for rest and play.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Creche, Snowdrops, Playschool and Montessori rooms and not Preschool room.

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

(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.

Compliance Information

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that four new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Four of these new staff members work directly with the children. These four records, the records for the registered provider, a student on placement and the records for two external contractors were reviewed.

- (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 eight adults whose staff files 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 two adults who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.
- (4) Two adults employed to work directly with children attending the service and held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher or a recognised equivalent qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

particular reference number 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 were seventy-three children attending the service being supervised directly by eighteen adults.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for the service.

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:

(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;

Compliance Information

(1)(f)

1. The manager ensured that health care plans which included parental authorisation of medication administration were in place for children requiring medication to be given either on a regular basis, on a 'as required' basis or in an emergency situation.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The adults working with the children spoke and interacted with them to in a kind and respectful manner. Their first names were used; appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions.

The adults were familiar with each child and their personality.

Food and snacks were provided at regular intervals during the day. Young children had the opportunity to feed themselves and their drinks were within their reach throughout the day should they feel thirsty. The staff members sat with the children and encouraged social interaction and conversations.

Nappy changing was completed regularly and promptly when required. It was managed in a sensitive and positive manner.

Needs led sleep was provided to any child requiring sleep in the Creche and Snowdrops rooms however most children requiring sleep, slept at a designated time during the day and were provided with as much time as they needed to sleep.

Older children were encouraged to be independent as they managed their personal belongings and got dressed for outdoor play assisted by adults as needed.

Transitions were well managed throughout the day by the staff members in the service. There was a predictability to the children's day, and the routine was unhurried and paced to suit the needs of the children. The children responded positively to this.

The care rooms were well resourced and presented to encourage child led play and facilitate children's choice. All children are given an opportunity for daily outdoor play morning and afternoon. Four outdoor areas were located at the sides and rear of the premises.

Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times. A daily electronic record was used for communication to parents during the day for the children attending the Creche and Snowdrops rooms and outlined food eaten, time nappies were changed, sleep times, activities and other comments. Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary and email and telephone contact are used as an alternative method of contact.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Two sleep rooms were available with six cots in each room. This was adequate to meet needs led sleep requirements for the pre-school children aged under 2 years.

Ten sleep beds were available for children aged over 2 years requiring sleep in the service. Appropriate bed linen was provided for all children. It was stored separately for infection control purposes and washed weekly or more frequently if needed.

Each room inspected had comfortable rest areas with child sized couches and soft mats that children could rest, relax and read a book if they wished throughout the day.

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 secured and managed by the staff to ensure the safety of the children within the service. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. Staff members in each care room advised the inspector they would remove any beaded necklace if observed that a child may be wearing them.

The staff members were aware of the potential choking risks that grapes posed when asked by the inspectors. There was documentary evidence available that daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed daily and reviewed by the registered provider 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. The staff were observed washing their hands also. 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. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. The staff members were familiar with the required practice when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored.

Safe Sleep:

The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance and the required care of sleeping children including sleep room environmental temperatures and the 10-minute sleep check observations for all sleeping children which was recorded in an electronic sleep log.

Fire Safety:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Monthly fire drills had been carried out, and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire exits were not obstructed. Fire assembly signage was observed in the outdoor area at the rear of the service.

Outing:

The service does not conduct outings. This was confirmed by the person in charge.