

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK045
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Childworld Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes, Greenfields Cross Childers Road, Rosbrien, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 KX9V
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	John Bennett
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/04/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	44	PM	46
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla, Early years Inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Browne
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Childworld Creche is a community full day childcare service located on Childers Road, Greenfield on the outskirts of Limerick city. It offers sessional, part-time and fulltime places to children from 6 months to 6 years of age. It is operational Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 5.00pm.

At the time of the inspection there was 49 preschool children registered to attend the service.

The service operates from a single storey premises. There are 4 well developed play rooms and an additional playroom for small group activities available to the children. Sanitary facilities are located adjacent to each room in the service. There are two sleep rooms available to the children from the Baby and Toddler playrooms. A kitchen where meals are prepared each day is located in the building. There are 3 outdoor play areas in the service, 1 located to the rear of the building and 2 outdoor areas located to the side of the building .

### Staffing

The manager works full time in the service and there are an additional 22 staff employed to work at the facility. Relief staff are available to cover lunch breaks, staff holidays and absenteeism when required. The registered provider does not work in the service.

Staff engage in continuous professional development training and courses on an ongoing and regular basis.

### 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 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 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.*

*(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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The manager was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the manager was present and the staff roster indicated that this person or their deputy were always available on the premises.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2) Since the previous inspection of the 24/10/2023 there was only one new staff employed in the service.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for this new member of staff employed to work at the service.

(b) References were submitted by staff from either their past employers or from other reputable sources.

(c) The Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were viewed and available for all staff employed to work at the service.

(d) Police vetting was available for 6 staff members who had resided outside of Ireland for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(3) All of the above documentation was furnished to the registered provider prior to each new staff member taking up employment at the facility.

(4) All staff had childcare 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) At all times during the period of the inspection the manager ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

On the day of the inspection there were 16 staff working across 4 rooms with 44 children present in the morning and 46 children present in the afternoon. The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained and an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children in each room.

- Baby Room - there were 4 (6mts- 18mts) children and 3 staff present.
- Toddler Room 1 - there were 9 (18mts - 2 years) children and 4 staff present.
- Toddler Room 2 - there were 9 (2-3 years) children and 2 staff present.
- Playschool- there were 22 (2-3) children and 5 staff present.

Additional staff were available to cover for staff breaks /office management. Staff rosters demonstrated there were at least 2 staff on the premises at all times.

### 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

##### Basic Needs:

Children's basic needs were met in the service each day with a clear focus on the importance of healthy eating, adequate exercise, lots of play time and rest. Nutritious hot meals and snacks were prepared daily by kitchen staff and were served to all rooms at regular intervals throughout the day. Children had easy access within each room to their drinking bottles throughout the day.

Sanitary accommodation and nappy changing facilities were located next to each playroom. Children's toiletries were stored close to each nappy changing unit and were located within easy reach of the staff. Hot water, liquid soap and paper handtowels were accessible in all nappy changing areas and in all sanitary accommodations. A change of clothes was available for all children if needed.

Separate sleep rooms were located next to the Baby and Toddler room, with an adequate supply of good quality standard cots available for all children under 2 years of age. Low level beds were used by all children over 2 years who required a sleep. Children were closely monitored while sleeping and all checks were documented. Rest areas with soft couches, cushions and blankets were accessible in each of other rooms accommodating the older children to rest at any stage during the day when tired.

Children spend long periods of time outside every day with each age group having access to their own outdoor space. The outdoor area for the Babies, Toddlers and Preschool children has lots of equipment and materials which support children's play, movement, learning and exploration exclusive to outdoors. Sheltered space outside facilitated play in all weather conditions. Bikes, trikes, cars, and scooters were available outside. Areas for messy play, for gardening and planting were accessible outside.

##### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

Parents were actively involved in all aspects of the service. At enrolment information of children's daily routines were shared in writing. Details of each child's likes and dislikes were noted. Family photographs were displayed in all rooms to support a sense of belonging and connectedness for each child. Parents received lots of information throughout each day on the activities the children participated in, the meals they had and how they slept during

rest times. At drop off and collection time staff updated parents on any additional information. Regular staff meeting took place at the service. Agendas for these meeting were shared and agreed outcomes from the meetings were agreed. This ensured a strong sense of teamwork at the service

### 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:

Since the previous inspection the door leading to the laundry room was kept closed at all times to ensure the safety of the children and staff.

### 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) Each child on arrival to the service was checked in by a staff member in each designated room. At home time the staff met each parent or guardian and signed the child out of the service. All records were documented in writing.

(3)(a) The service ensured that only children attending, the person who drops and collects and the employees gain access to the premises.

The front door to the service had a buzzer and staff from inside approved admission to all visitors entering the premises.

(b) All visitor access was managed appropriately with a visitor book available at the front door to record details of all who entered the building.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

(a) The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure both internally and externally and no obvious defects were noted on inspection.

(b) The building appeared safe and secured. A buzzer system on the entrance door ensured all who entered the building were checked in by an authorised person in the manager's office. Outdoors the play areas were surrounded by secure high walls and gates where no unauthorised access to or exit from the area was permitted.

(c) All areas were well lit by natural light and by artificial light when needed. There was no evidence of mould, mildew, stale smells, stuffiness, or condensation.

(d) The areas outdoor playgrounds and footpaths were all well maintained and routine cleaning schedules were in place for the internal and external areas including play equipment and materials.

Since the previous inspection the play areas were power hosed and observed to be in a clean condition. The storage box has been replaced and the area located off the kitchen area has been cleared, pest control was up to date. The damaged slide has been replaced and a new sand box was in place. Cupboards in some of the playrooms were painted and there were plans in place to replace damaged cupboards in one playroom. In the main outdoor

play area the timber framed boat was sanded and painted, and open-ended play materials were added to this area. The roof of the timber framed outdoor seated area was replaced and work was in progress with maintenance. The walls in the preschool playroom were painted and painting of the children's playrooms was an annual scheduled event in line with the service closure. The tiles have been replaced in the sanitary area.

(e) There were an adequate number of toilets, wash hand basins and nappy changing areas available in the service. All waste was managed appropriately with lots of foot pedal operated, lidded bins in all areas. Handwashing and drying facilities were suitable and adequate