

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK045
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Name of Service:	Childworld Creche
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Address of Service:	Our Lady of Lourdes, Greenfields Cross Childers Road, Rosbrien, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 KX9V
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kate Clifford
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	03/12/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	45	PM	34
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Early years inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne and J Ryan
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
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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.

The service operates from a single storey premises. There are 4 well developed playrooms and an additional sensory playroom for small group activities. Sanitary facilities are located adjacent to each room in the service. There is one sleep room 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 premises. There is an internal courtyard available for use by the younger preschool children.

Staffing

There are 26 staff members including the manager employed to work at the childcare facility and 23 of these staff members have recognised childcare qualifications. There is one person on the community employment scheme with a childcare qualification.

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

The registered provider does not work in the service.

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 focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations.

Regulation 9(1)(a)(b)(c) 2(a)(b)(c)(d)(3) (4)

Regulation 10

Regulation 11(1)(2)

Regulation 16(1)(k)

Regulation 19(1a)

Regulation 23

The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 Health Welfare and Development of the child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Baby and the Preschool playrooms.

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

This inspection was triggered by information received into the early inspectorate office.

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.

(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 last inspection of the 17/07/2024 there were five staff members employed in the service in the year 2024 and 2025.

(a) There were six written and validated references from previous employers available for these members of staff employed to work at the service.

(b) There were four written and verified references submitted by staff from other sources where past employers' references were not available.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for the new staff employed in 2024 and 2025, all other staff members, and the one person working with the community employment scheme.

The Garda vetting for all staff was dated within the last three years as per the regulatory notice, EYI-RN12.3 renewal of garda vetting, published by the inspectorate in September 2023 and effective from 1st of January 2024.

(d) Police vetting was available for the 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 members working directly with the preschool children had childcare qualifications.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The services policy on Accidents and Incidents was reviewed.

The policy outlined the measures to be taken to prevent accidents and incidents. It sets out the procedures to be followed when an accident or an incident involving a preschool child occurs while the child is attending the service. It outlines the steps that are to be taken to contact the parent of the child or the emergency services if necessary. It describes how information is recorded, documented and stored regarding accidents and incidents. It outlines the risk assessment procedures to be taken following an incident and accident occurring in the service.

The record of a detailed risk assessment was available following a recent incident.

This services Risk Management policy was also reviewed.

This policy outlined the procedures to assess any potential risk to the safety of the preschool child attending and to determine measures to either eliminate the risk or mitigate the risk. It outlined how risk assessments completed by the service were conducted and documented. It stated that the risk assessment record must show

the name of the person involved in the risk assessment process. On reviewing the risk assessment list, it was established that the procedure as outlined in the policy was followed.

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.

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 13 staff members working across 4 rooms with 45 children present in the morning and 14 staff members working with 34 children 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 8 (6mts- 18mts) children and 4 staff present.
- Toddler Room 1 - there were 9 (18mts - 2 years) children and 2 staff present.
- Toddler Room 2 - there were 7 (2-3 years) children and 3 staff present.
- Playschool- there were 21 (3-5 years) children and 5 staff present.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(k)

The records demonstrated that details of any incident, injury or incident involving a preschool child were maintained and appropriate actions taken as required.

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 services objective was to ensure that each child's learning, development and well-being was supported, taking all children's individual interests, needs and stage of development into consideration.

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service to encourage and educate the children about the importance of good nutrition. The service supplied all foods and drinks for the preschool children. Children's drinks were easily accessible to them throughout the day. A dinner of chicken, mixed vegetables and mashed potatoes was offered to the children. The staff sat with the children during mealtimes to give examples of positive social skills. The atmosphere was observed to be relaxed during the mealtime in the Baby room and the Preschool rooms. Each child was given plenty of time to eat and enjoy their drink and meal without being rushed.

A nappy changing facility was accessible for the younger children who required nappy changing in the Baby and Wobblers playrooms. Nappies were changed in a timely manner. Children had unrestricted access to the toilets which were located next to the playrooms. Foot pedal operated, lidded bins were used for the safe disposal of used tissues. Staff were available to assist children if needed. Staff were heard using the appropriate language surrounding toileting and nappy changing. Children were encouraged and supported to develop good personal hygiene skills. Hand washing was observed by the children and staff following toileting, outdoor play and before meals times.

Lots of soft seating and rest areas were evident in each room for children to relax and rest, if time away from active play was needed. Each child’s need for sleep and rest in the Baby room was met when they were tired. The older children slept on low-level beds and linen was changed daily after each sleep. Staff remained in the room while the children were sleeping.

The facility had well-resourced outdoor play areas where children had an opportunity to play in most weather conditions. Protective clothing was available for messy play, and the availability of rain gear ensured outdoor play regardless of weather. The outdoor play provided opportunities for fresh air, discovery, movement, exploration and activities exclusive to the outdoors. The babies had the opportunity to go outdoors on the day in the three double buggies that were available in the service for the younger children. Children in the preschool rooms who didn’t want to play outdoors on the day were allowed to stay in the room under the supervision of staff. This supported each child’s sense of autonomy where they were allowed make decisions themselves and have those decisions respected.

The service has focused on replacing plastic toys with more natural play materials such as wooden jigsaws, pegboards, baskets and shelving. Sensory play materials such as playdough, sand and water were observed to be accessible to the children in the Preschool rooms.

Lots of positive affirmation was given by staff to children as they played and children were supported to play independently. Each preschool child was assigned a key person to develop their trust and to be actively involved in the children play where appropriate. There were many moments of nurturing and comforting observed as the staff engaged and communicated with the children. The service worked with parents, guardians and families and the wider local community through the many initiatives and supports organised by the service and other organisations.

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 service ensured that the safety of the children was paramount, and the facility was regularly checked to ensure proper safety standards were maintained both internally and externally. A risk assessment of all areas was carried out on a regular basis, most recently in November /December 2025. A list of each item checked, the

internal and external areas checked and the persons responsible for carrying out the checks were documented. These lists were signed and dated.

Infection Control:

A high standard of operational hygiene was noted in all areas of the service. A written cleaning record was available showing that all areas internally and externally were cleaned on a regular basis.

All toys, play materials and equipment available to the children were cleaned at the end of each day. No broken toys or equipment were noted on the premises.

Administration of Medication:

The person in charge and the relevant staff had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the policy on administration of medication in the service.

Safe Sleep:

The service and the relevant staff members had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the policy on safe sleep. The policy was displayed in the sleep room used for the children from the Baby and Wobbler playroom. The records demonstrated that sleeping records for each sleeping child were maintained in line with the safe sleep policy.

Outing:

The service undertook regular outings from the service involving staff members, parents and their children. There was evidence of the outing policy being implemented. Staff were familiar with the requirements of the policy and had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities when taking children on outings.