

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK127
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Name of Service:	Munroe Kids Club
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Address of Service:	Fr. Russell Road Dooradoyle Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 A4T0
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Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Roche
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	24/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	27
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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
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Description of service

This is a registered early years service which opened in 2002. It provides sessional, part-time, and full day education and care to preschool children 1 to 6 years of age. School aged services are also provided to school aged children. The service is opened from 07.30am to 06.00pm and the setting caters for a maximum of 44 children. It operates from a domestic style dwelling with two playrooms downstairs and one playroom upstairs, sanitary facilities and a large outdoor play area at the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are 11 adults on the staff roster and employed in the service.

This is inclusive of the following.

- 9 staff with childcare qualifications work directly with the children which includes the registered provider.
- 2 additional staff which includes kitchen staff and school aged staff.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations.

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Regulation 9 - Management and recruitment

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures of pre-school service

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

Regulation 15 - Record of pre-school child

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

Regulation 22 - Food

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.

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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

(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

(1)(a) There was a named person in charge and a deputy was available to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection the person in charge was present and the staff roster indicated that the person in charge or the deputy were available on the premises each day.

(2) The files of all 11 staff members working in the service were reviewed.

(a) There were 18 written and validated references submitted by staff from previous employers on file.

(b) There were 4 written and validated references submitted by staff from sources other than past employers.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for all the staff employed to work in the service.

The garda vetting for all of the 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 8 staff member who had resided outside of jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months.

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(4) There were 9 staff members with the appropriate childcare qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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 following policies were reviewed and contained the required information for staff to ensure the safe care of children at all times.

- Safe Sleep Policy
- Healthy Eating policy
- Nappy changing policy

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 6 staff working in three rooms with 31 children present in the morning and 27 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.

- Junior Preschool Room - there were 11 children (3-4 years) and 2 staff present.
- Senior Preschool Room - there were 9 children (4-5 years) and 2 staff present.
- Toddler Room - there were 11 children (2-3 years) and 2 staff present.

Additional staff were available to cover breaks.

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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:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (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;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

A sample of 11 records for preschool children were reviewed and all contained the required information listed above 1 (a) – (i).

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:

A healthy eating policy was available in the service and dinner consisted of chicken curry and rice. Fruit was served for the morning snack. Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack or meal without being

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rushed. Staff sat down at the table with the children at dinner time and gave them assistance where it was required. Drinking water was freely available in each room and staff were observed to encourage children to drink lots of water.

Toilet training was based on the child's stage of development and their readiness to start training rather than their age. Nappy changing facilities were located upstairs and downstairs for the children in the junior and senior preschool rooms where there was suitable handwashing facilities.

Rest areas were evident in each room with couches, blankets and cushions available and children were observed to enjoy resting on them whilst flicking through books and chatting to their friends.

There were no children under 2 years in attendance therefore the cot room had been converted to become part of the junior preschool room.

Staff were observed interacting well with the children, using soft tones of voice, using the child's name and getting down to their level and making good eye contact. Art and craft activities were completed by the children in preparation for Easter. Sensorial play materials were readily accessible to the children in each room of the service.

The outdoor play area was developed and organised with a wide range of outdoor play equipment. A roofed area allowed for the indoor classroom activities to be facilitated outdoors where tables and chairs were available in the sheltered area.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

A healthy eating policy was available displayed in the entrance hallway of the service and had been communicated to parents. The policy was updated in May 2025.

Relevant staff had received training on the policy.

Staff had a clear understanding in relation to ensuring that all children received suitable, nutritious and varied food while they attended the service.

Drinks of water were available in each room and were accessible to children when they were thirsty.

Dinner on the day of the inspection consisted of chicken curry and rice.