

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK127
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Munroe Kids Club
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94A4T0
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Caroline Roche
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/07/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	14
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Ryan
<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

This is an Early Years Crèche which first opened in 2002. It is a private service which 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 two playrooms upstairs, sanitary facilities and a large outdoor play area at the rear of the building. Currently the service has closed both playrooms upstairs and there are only two rooms in operation downstairs, those being the junior and senior preschool rooms.

### Staffing

There were 7 adults present working directly with the children which included the designated person in charge. All staff working with the preschool children had childcare qualifications.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Childcare 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 regulations 9,11,19,23,24,25,26, and 28.

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 registered provider, 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

(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 designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge or the deputy person in charge were available on the premises at all times as evidenced in the staff roster.

(2) The registered provider had ensured that each employee working in the service was suitable and competent as the following documents were available on file for all staff employed.

(a) References from the person's past employers and in particular the most recent employer.

(b) References from sources other than past employers in the case of a person who had no past employers.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of all staff.

(d) Police vetting was available for 4 staff members who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 months.

(4) All staff working directly with the preschool children had childcare qualifications.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting was not available for a staff member who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 months.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Police vetting has been completed.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of Police vetting.

### Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 9(2)(d).

## 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 5 staff working in two rooms with 14 children present in the morning and 14 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 both rooms.

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

### 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 pasta bolognese. Fruit was served for the morning snack. Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack or meal without being rushed.

Staff sat down at the table with the children at dinner time and gave them assistance where it was required.

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 for the children in the junior preschool room 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.

##### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

This full day care service operated from a domestic type dwelling and comprised of 4 playrooms, sanitary accommodation areas and a large outdoor play area. There were only two of the playrooms in use on the day of the inspection. Adequate and varied play equipment suited to the age and stage of development of the child was available in both rooms of the service and in the outdoor play area. Surplus play equipment was in storage and used on a rotational basis following cleaning. Children had wellingtons and wet gear available to use in the outdoor play area in poor weather conditions. Defined interest areas included reading areas, construction areas, home corners, puzzles, buggies, manipulative play areas and small world areas.

Children were observed playing outdoors on the day of the inspection where there were tables and chairs located under the roofed area with the children doing painting activities. The outdoor area was safe and secure with swings, slides, mud kitchens, ride on toys, sand play, building blocks, water play features, basketball hoops, adult seating and planted areas.

### 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:

On arrival to the service, the entrance door leading into the pre-school facility was secured and a hand sanitising station had been set up in the entrance hallway.

Safe storage was available for cleaning agents and equipment.

Fire exit doors were unobstructed.

All blind cords were secure and made safe.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer was kept out of reach of young children.

Rooms throughout the service were well ventilated as windows were observed to be open allowing fresh air to circulate.

The outdoor play area was fenced and made secure to prevent children gaining unsupervised access to a roadway and to prevent unauthorised access.

All waste was inaccessible both indoors and outdoors.

##### Infection Control:

A written cleaning record was available where high contact areas were regularly cleaned throughout the day. The service was cleaned thoroughly each evening. High touch surfaces such as door handles, light switches, backs of chairs and tabletops were cleaned frequently throughout the day. A supply of cleaning agents and equipment was available in each room of the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- Garda vetting was available for all ten staff members, however for three of the staff their vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

Garda vetting documentation has been updated.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Copies of in date garda vetting.

## Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 23.

## 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 who attended the service was checked in and out of the service by a staff member on a childcare app on arrival and on departure.

(3)(a) No persons other than the following could enter the service without being approved by a staff member.

(i) A pre-school child attending the service.

(ii) A person dropping or collecting such a child.

(iii) An employee.

(iv) An unpaid worker.

(b) A visitor book was maintained which recorded the name of every adult who entered the service, the time they spent in the service, the reason they entered, contact phone numbers and the person who allowed them to enter.

## 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

(1) There were two staff present who had completed current first aid response certification for children.

(2)(a) First aid boxes were accessible and safely stored in the service.

(b) The first aid boxes were available if required by a child.

## 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 fire fighting 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) The fire drills were practiced monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 04/06/2024.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in January 2024 and a record was maintained of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment. The fire and smoke alarm system were tested and serviced 06/02/2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available for the number of children who attended and had an expiry date 27/03/2025.