

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK154
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Name of Service:	Tait House Community Creche
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Address of Service:	Tait House, Collins Avenue, Roxboro Road, Limerick, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 NXT8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Michael Quilligan
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	25/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	36
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, 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

This full day community service is located in an urban area of Limerick city, and it provides full day care, part time and sessional care to children aged from 0 to 6 years of age. The opening hours are from 08:30 – 17:30 hours, Monday – Friday for 51 weeks of the year. The service has a maximum capacity for approximately 80 preschool children. This childcare facility has 5 playrooms in operation, dedicated sleep areas off the Baby and Wobblers playrooms, sanitary facilities for children and adults, a kitchen, office and outdoor play areas to the front and rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are 18 staff members employed to work in the service including the manager and deputy manager.

There were 12 staff members (including the manager and deputy manager) working across 5 playrooms, and additional staff were scheduled to work in the kitchen, cleaning and maintenance work. All staff members working with the children have achieved an award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

There were 2 childcare students, 1 transition year secondary school student and 1 person working on the community employment scheme present in the service on the day of the inspection.

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 may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 19, 21, 23, and 29.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Toddler and Preschool 2 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.

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

(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) The registered provider ensured that the service had a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise if required.

(b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) The following documents were available on file for the 18 staff members employed to work in the service, the 3 students on placement and the 1 person working with the community employment scheme.

(a) There were 32 written and verified references from past employers, available in respect of the staff members, community employment worker and students at the service.

(b) There were 12 written and verified references available on file from other sources for the staff members, community employment worker and students who did not have the references from 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 18 staff members, 3 students on placement and the 1 person working with the community employment scheme.

The garda vetting for all 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 one staff member who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 months.

(4) The staff members working with the children had the appropriate childcare qualification.

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

There were written policies and procedures available in the service which the person in charge and staff members were currently in the process of updating.

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)
The service operated 5 playrooms from 08.30am to 17.30hrs each day. On the day of the inspection there were 33 pre-school children and 12 staff members including the manager present for the morning sessions, and 36 preschool children and 10 staff members present for the afternoon sessions.

Overall, in the service the adult child ratio was compliant with the requirements of Regulation 11. There were additional staff working in the kitchen and for the maintenance work on the premises.

(2)

At all times the registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service.

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

Meals, snacks and drinks for the children were provided by the service in line with their healthy eating policy. Foods and drinks were provided at regular intervals throughout the day. For the ten-o clock morning break boiled eggs with toast and fruit was served to the children. At dinner breaded chicken with mash potatoes and mixed vegetables was available with gravy. All the food was prepared fresh on site. The children were observed eating their food at the table with appropriate crockery being used. The staff sat with the children at break and mealtimes and actively encouraged these times to be a social occasion. The children were given plenty of time to eat and drink.

Children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times during the sessions such as after toileting, outdoor play and messy play and before eating. Hand washing took place using hot water, liquid soap and paper towels. The staff responded to the children's cues for assistance in a prompt and sensitive manner. The children who required additional assistance with toileting the staff were observed giving one to one attention and responded to their communication cues, verbal and nonverbal. Nappies were changed as necessary and in a timely manner. Staff were heard using the correct language surrounding toileting and nappy changing.

The staff were positive in their communication with the children, using soft tones of voice and listening to the children in a caring and gentle way.

A designated area with soft couches were available to the children if they wished to rest and relax away from more active play areas. A child in the preschool room who was feeling unwell on the day was made to feel safe and secure and encouraged to lie down on the couch for a rest. Staff closely supervised the child and also got the person in charge of the service to check the child.

The children were supported as they played individually and as part of a group. The key person for each child was in operation. Children were observed moving freely indoors working in small groups or on their own and they appeared to be content and happy in their chosen activity.

Children had daily access to a number of enclosed outdoor areas to the rear of the premises containing lots of natural play materials and equipment, a green area to the front and back of the premises. The children were observed being taken to the outdoor areas in small groups on a rotational basis with their key person. Sensorial play activities such as sand and water were available in each room of the service.

A team spirit was evident in the service through informal staff discussions, regular formal meetings and mentoring system for students and staff.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

Since the previous inspection dated the 23/03/2024 the outdoor grassy area available to the children from the Wobbler playroom has been developed into a sensory garden with a variety of natural and organic materials. The areas to the front of the premises had a new fence in place with additional play equipment that was appropriate to the age and stage of development of the preschool child.

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:

There were steps available in the nappy changing unit for the Babies and Wobblers to help children to climb safely onto the changing unit. This will reduce the potential safety risk to staff and children using these facilities.

Infection Control:

The nappy changing policy was displayed in the nappy changing units to prompt the staff members of the procedures to follow when nappy changing and toileting.

The staff and children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the day.

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) There were no indications of obvious defects noted on the inspection.
- (b) The premises appeared safe and secure. There was a keypad security system at the front door and gates to the side entrance and the enclosed outdoor areas remained closed throughout the sessions.
- (c) All areas were well lit by natural light and by artificial light when needed. Openable windows were in place to ensure a means of air circulation in each playroom.
- (d) The areas outside were maintained and routine cleaning schedules were in place for all internal and external areas. The premises was rodent proofed, and a pest control company checked the facility in October 2025.
- (e) There were an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available at the service for the preschool children and staff members.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
 1. There was a tap in the nappy changing area that appeared corroded.
 2. The worktop in Preschool room 2 appeared torn and worn in particular around the sink area.
 3. The floor surface at the sink area in Preschool room 2 was in a poor condition.
 This posed a potential risk to the wellbeing of the staff and children using these areas.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action; The registered provider has stated in the CAPA response dated the 19/12/2025 that:

1. For the corroded the tap in the changing room attached to the Wobbler room, a new tap has been installed.
2. The worktop around the sink in Preschool room 2 has been replaced.
3. A new floor mat has been bought and located at the sink area in Preschool room 2.

The monthly risk assessment will include the above areas for review and actions as required.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted to confirm that all the required actions were completed.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of point (d)1, 2, and 3 for Regulation 29 Premises.