

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LM009				
Name of Service:	Cloone/Aughavas Comm Childcare Ltd (Little Rascals)				
Address of Service:	Cloone Community Centre, Cloone, Co. Leitrim				
Name of Registered Provider:	Grainne Mcgowan				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	12/01/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>7</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	7	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello
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

Cloone/Aughavas Community Childcare Ltd is a community-based service which was first established in 2000. An Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme is offered on a sessional basis to children aged 2-6 years. The programme of care is facilitated through a play-based curriculum. The operates from 9:00am to 12:00pm Monday to Friday.

Staffing

On the day of inspection three adults were working directly with the preschool children. The person in charge was working with the preschool children on the day. The service has a relief staff member that assists to cover leave. The registered provider is a committee member and does not work directly with the preschool children.

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, 11, 15, 19, 23, 28 and 32. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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.

(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 to deputise as required.

(b). On review of attendance, the person in charge or deputy person in charge was available while the preschool service was in operation.

(c). There is a clear management structure within the preschool service with the person in charge and deputy. All staff appear to be aware of their roles and responsibilities.

(2)

The records of all four adults employed in the service were reviewed.

(a) Five written and verified past employer references were available.

(b) In the absence of a past employer three verified references from a other source were available for review.

(c) A garda vetting disclosure was available for all four adults employed in the preschool service.

(d) International police vetting was not required as all the adults employed in the service had not lives outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4) The four adults employed in the service had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of 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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

- (1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the preschool service. There were three adults working directly with seven children on the morning of the unannounced inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children ratio were provided on the day of the inspection in accordance with the required ratio considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service.

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.

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

(a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,

(b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and

(c) an authorised person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

(1) (a-i)

Eleven records of all the children attending the service were reviewed. The required information including the authorisation to collect the child, details of illness or special needs of the child, emergency contact and record of immunisations were fully completed for each child.

(3) (a)

The records in writing were available for inspection by the early year's inspector.

(4)

The person in charge confirmed that the records are retained for the required period as set out in the regulations.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The preschool service operates from a room in a community centre with access to a large outdoor facility and access to a large community hall. The care room is decorated with artwork completed by the preschool children as well as educational posters of letters and props for circle time such as posters on feelings and the weather. The care room is well resourced with a variety of materials suitable to the age and stage of the preschool children. Resources include tabletop activities, puzzles and jigsaws, arts and crafts, construction toys, cars, tractors, farm animals all displayed in open low-level shelving. The care room is set up with various interest areas including a home corner with a kitchen and play food, dolls and cots and playhouse. A sensory area with a sand box and sensory toys is also available. On the day of inspection children were observed to move around the room freely, directing their own sense of play. The children appeared happy and content in the company of their peers and the adults in the service. Arts and crafts were set up for those children who wished to complete some creative work supported by one adult in the service. The outdoor area is a large area with a tarmac surface, a risk assessment is carried out prior to use, ensuring the perimeter is secure, gates closed, and the area is free of hazards. Resources in this area allow for development of gross motor skills such as bikes and trikes, ride on tractors and cars, footballs and athletic equipment including hula hoops and bean bags. These resources can also be used inside in the large community hall that is available to the service in inclement weather. Similarly, to the outdoor area a risk assessment is carried out in the community hall prior to use.

Staff were observed to be kind and attentive to the children in their interactions. The three adults working on the day of the inspection appeared to work well together with clear communication between staff members. At all times the adults informed each other what they were doing throughout the session.

Good communication was observed between the adults and children with the adults informing the children of transitions giving time to adjust to the changes in play throughout the session.

Lunch and snacks are provided from home and include sandwiches, fruit and yoghurts. All perishable items are stored in the service fridge on arrival to the service. Lunch time was observed to be inclusive with all children sitting together with the adults to have their lunch. The adults used this time to have conversations with the children about plans for the weekend and children were eager to inform their peers of activities at home. All children in the service were toilet trained and the adults promoted independence in toileting supervising from a distance with prompts as necessary.

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 main entrance into the service was found to be secured upon the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service, which prevented persons entering unauthorised and children from leaving the building unsupervised.
- All cleaning products were stored on high level shelving in the storeroom cupboard.
- Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the preschool children.
- Leads and flexes were secure and inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The outdoor perimeter was secure with a risk assessment completed prior to each use.

Infection Control:

- There were adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to mealtimes and after messy play and snack times the care room.
- The materials and resources in the service were visually clean, with cleaning schedules in place and displayed on the wall of the care room.
- Children were observed to wash their hands regularly including after going to the toilet and prior to snack time.

Administration of Medication:

- The person in charge informed the inspector that the service does not administer medication in the sessional service.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation plans were displayed on the wall in the care room.
- Fire doors were observed to be clear with no obstructions.
- A record of monthly fire evacuation drills was displayed on the wall of the care room.

Outing:

- The service had consent forms in place for any outings including walks that the children may go on.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The preschool service had up to date insurance for 22 preschool children in a sessional service up to the 27.03.2024.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) *A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-*
- (a) *the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
 - (b) *the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
 - (c) *the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*
- (2) *A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) *a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.*
- (4) *A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the complaint has been dealt with.*

Compliance Information

- (1) On review of the preschool service complaints policy, the following information was provided.
- (a) Guidance and procedure for the person making the complaint.
 - (b) Information to the complainant about how this information will be processed.
 - (c) Information on how the complainant is informed throughout the process.
- (2) (a) (b)
- The service had no complaints on record on the day of inspection, however on interview the person in charge was aware of the requirements and process involved in managing complaints.
- (4) The person in charge was aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the complaints policy within the service.