

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015LM020

Name of Service: Carrigallen Childcare Facility Ltd

Address of Service: Chapel Road,
Carrigallen,
Leitrim.
H12 YW01

Email Address: happyfeetcarrigallen@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Dominic Taaffe

Type of Service Registered: Full Day Care

Date(s) of Inspection: 2 6 0 1 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 38 PM -

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Services,
Markievicz House,
Barrack St,
Sligo.
F91 XC84

Inspection undertaken by: S Mc Kenna & Y Coyne
Title: Early Years Inspector & Inspection Registration Manager

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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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	Carrigallen Childcare Facility Ltd is a community run early years service. It is located on the outskirts of Carrigallen town. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 42 children aged 2 to 6 years. The service opens 51 weeks per year.
Premises	<p>The service operates from a converted national school building. The ground floor consists of one baby room, one wobbler room, a creche room, one preschool room, two nappy changing areas, sanitary accommodation, three sleep rooms, a staff room, an office and a kitchen. A preschool room is on the first floor of the premises along with sanitary accommodation. Two outdoor areas are situated to the back and one to the front of the premises.</p> <p>On the day of inspection, the wobbler room was closed and not in use, while the baby room was joined with the Creche room.</p>
Staffing	There are 10 adults employed by the service. All adults employed hold a major award in Childcare on the National Qualifications Framework.
Methodology	<p>Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. The rooms inspected on the day were the Creche room on the ground floor, and the preschool on the first floor.</p> <p>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.</p>
Additional Information	On the day of inspection, due to the current Covid 19 isolation guidelines within Early Years Services, there was limited staff. Therefore, the children attending the Baby Room and Creche Room were joined and were observed to use the Creche Room alongside the Baby and Creche Sleep rooms on the day of inspection.
Acknowledgements	The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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)
There was a designated person in charge, and a named person to deputise as required.
- (a)
On the day of inspection and upon review of the weekly staff roster the registered provider ensured that while the pre-school service was in operation the designated person in charge was on the premises.
- (2)
One new staff member has commenced employment within the preschool service since the last inspection on 01/08/2019. The files for the person in charge and eight other staff members were found to meet the regulatory requirement on previous inspections and therefore are not included in this inspection report.
- (a) and (b) two written references from previous employers were available for the one new staff member.
- (c) Evidence of completed Garda Vetting disclosures was available for the new staff member.
- (d) Police vetting was available for the new staff member who had resided outside the state as an adult for a period longer than 6 months.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

(4)

The new staff member held a major award in early childhood care and education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service on the day of the inspection. There were 38 children attending the preschool service being cared for by 10 adults.

(2)

There were 17 preschool children aged 3 years upwards attending the ground floor Preschool room being supervised by 2 adults.

There were 9 children ages 3 years upwards attending the upstairs Preschool supervised by 2 adults.

There were 12 children aged between 1 year and 2 years 11 months attending the Creche room being supervised by 3 adults.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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

Compliance Information:

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the sampled Creche room and upstairs Preschool room, taking cognisance that the time spent by the inspectors in the premises was reduced in order to minimise risk, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic:

BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. A two-week menu was on display in the hallway. Adults advised the inspector than children received

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

breakfast up to 9am each morning. A morning snack is served to the children at 10am in the Creche room. Children were observed to have a morning snack in the upstairs Preschool room at 10:40am which consisted of yogurts, cheese fruits and sandwiches which was sent in from home on a daily basis. A hot meal of potatoes sausages and beans with a drink were observed to be served to the Creche children between 12 and 12:30pm, with some fresh fruit served afterwards. Adults advised the inspector a further snack at 3pm was served to the children attending on a full day basis.

- The children were observed to use the sanitary accommodation independently, with help given to younger children where needed.
- Bibs and aprons were provided for meal times in the Creche room. Care and attention were given to children’s appearances with noses cleaned where needed and spare clothes provided if children required a change.
- Two soft fabric sofas and cushions were provided for areas of rest in the Creche room with children observed on occasions lying on the sofas looking at story books. A wipeable 2-seater sofa was available to the children in the upstairs Preschool room, which also doubled up as a place to read books.
- The atmosphere in the Creche room was calm and welcoming, with children engaging in activities and adult support provided to them if needed. A child was observed to become upset over a child not wanting to hold hands with them in a game, the adult approached in a friendly and supportive manner, got down to the children’s level and worked together to come up with a solution which led to the issue being resolved.
- The atmosphere in the upstairs Preschool room upon the inspectors arrival was a fun busy and interactive environment where children were engaged in child led play where they had access to any of the play materials and resources available on low level shelving. Children were observed to take part in a musical marching activity throughout the room, singing songs as they played their musical instruments.
- The preschool leader advised the inspector that children in the Preschool room upstairs take part in outdoor play on a daily basis between 12 and 12:30 daily, which was observed by the inspectors. An adult in the Creche room advised the inspector that children in the crèche room would have access to the outdoor area on a daily basis and this would usually occur after dinner and sleep time was over.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- The adults working throughout the preschool service on the day of inspection displayed warm and welcoming attitudes, they were observed to demonstrate positive regard for the children’s needs and interests. The adults facilitated this through meeting requests by the children or by pre-empting for the younger children where they may require assistance.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The language and tones used by the adults on the day of the inspection were noted as kind and caring, and compassionate towards the children within their care. The children displayed strong relationships with the adults who care for them, were engaged in play and demonstrated confidence and happiness in their environments. The children were observed to be familiar with the routines in both the Preschool and Creche rooms. Transitions from activities to meal times and sleep times were smooth with the adults working well as a team to ensure a smooth change in routine for the children. A strong team ethos was evident within the preschool service among the team, with staff meetings occurring on a regular basis. Communication with parents is face to face with letters sent to parents with any recent updates regarding covid 19 guidelines or changes to policies and practices. <p>PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Creche room was a bright and welcoming room with spacious areas alongside designated play areas. Some of the areas included; a home corner, soft seating and book area, table top area, role play, creative area, sensory items, a seesaw, push along toys, threading toys and a selection of small world toys to include cars and animals. The upstairs Preschool room had designated play areas such as; a kitchen area, a book and soft seating area, small world toys with people and cars, role play sets, jigsaws, a creative area, sand tray and playdough. The tables and chairs in the Creche and upstairs Preschool room were suitable for the age and stage of children attending the rooms. Materials and resources available in both rooms were provided on easily accessible low-level shelving to allow children ease of access to the materials and toys of their choice. Art work was stored in individual art folders for the children. The adults explained to the inspector that the service had been recently painted and they were waiting on a delivery of new display boards to be fitted to the walls to display the children’s art work in the rooms. The outdoor environment for the Creche room contained a variety of tarmac and soft surfacing, with a plastic climbing frame, tunnel, house, wooden bench and wooden logs available to the children in this outdoor area. The upstairs Preschool room had access to an outdoor area with a tarmac surface, which contained a large slide, goal posts, ride on trucks, scooters, balls, a see saw and a wooden kitchen.
<p>Non-Compliance Information:</p>	<p>BASIC NEEDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking water was not readily accessible to the children in the upstairs Preschool room.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>BASIC NEEDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Station put in place. <p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>BASIC NEEDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room leader responsible to ensure adequate supply of cups and a jug filled with water are in place daily. <p><u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u></p> <p>BASIC NEEDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.
Summary Comment	The actions outlined in the service's Corrective & Preventive Action (CAPA) plan together with the associated documentary evidence submitted to the Inspectorate on the 3 rd of February 2022, demonstrates that the non-compliance noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 19 have been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

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:	<p>GENERAL SAFETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon the inspectors arrival at the preschool service the front entrance gate was locked, and the main entrance door to the preschool service was locked and had a door bell which notified staff of the inspectors arrival. The entrance door remained locked at all times during the inspection ensuring no unauthorised person could enter the building or no child could leave the building unsupervised. • Children were adequately supervised throughout the inspection. • Cleaning products were stored on high shelving out of the reach of children. • The service had been recently painted and was maintained in a clean and hygienic manner. • Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair. <p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated isolation area was provided in a standalone prefabricated building to the rear of the preschool service. Signs displaying covid 19 reminders, social distance markers and signs and symptoms posters were on display throughout the preschool service. • Hand sanitising stations and personal protective equipment was provided throughout the service. • There were policies and procedures available and in place should a child or adult become unwell in relation to covid 19.
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thermostatically controlled water in wash hand basins on the ground floor was available for use by children and adults. Paper towels and hand soap were provided at each wash hand basin. • The service, materials and resources throughout the preschool service were evidently clean, with cleaning schedules and risk assessments on display, in place and up to date. <p>ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records available for inspection detailed the medication given to children, dosage, time administered, two staff signatures and one parents signature upon collection of their child each day from the preschool service. <p>SAFE SLEEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate sleep facilities were provided for children aged under two years of age. Three separate sleep rooms were provided for the Baby, Wobbler and Creche rooms. Two standard cots were available in all three sleep rooms. Each sleep room cots were fitted with safety mattresses and cots that were positioned 50cm apart. Individual sheets and blankets were provided and laundered at least once a week in the service. • A sleep log was maintained for both the Baby and Creche playrooms recording the name, colour, position and breathing of sleeping children. Physical checks of the children were carried out by the adults every 10 minutes <p>FIRE SAFETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire drills occur monthly which was demonstrated by records on display. All fire exits remained clear of obstructions during the inspection process.
<p>Non-Compliance Information:</p>	<p>GENERAL SAFETY:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The toilet used by a Creche child on the day of inspection had a missing toilet seat. 2. There was a blind cord that was not secured in the upstairs preschool posing a risk of harm to a child. 3. There were two fire extinguishers in the upstairs Preschool room which were free standing, which posed a risk of injuring a child. 4. There were loose cords from a sleep monitoring system in the baby room under the children’s cots which posed a risk to a child. 5. The hot water in the upstairs preschool children’s sanitary accommodation was recorded at 43.6°C, which is above the recommended temperature of 40°C therefore posing a risk of injury to a child. 6. The windows in the upstairs Preschool room were not fitted with restrictive devices, which posing a risk of injury to a child.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	<p>7. A locking mechanism on a gate in the Baby and Creche outdoor play area was not in working order, with access to an area that contained bins and pest control boxes behind the gate.</p> <p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The children's snacks in the upstairs Preschool room contained perishable items such as yoghurts and cheese and were stored in the playroom at 20.9°C which is above the required level of below 5°C. 2. On the day of inspection, a nappy changing procedure was observed. During the nappy changing process the light in the nappy changing area was not switched on, therefore mechanical ventilation was not in place during the nappy changing practice. <p>ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Records available on the day of inspection did not provide pre-approved written consent from parents for the administration of a prescribed antibiotic for a child in attendance on the day of inspection.
<p>Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider</p>	<p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>GENERAL SAFETY:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Toilet seat has been installed to the toilet. 2. Blind cord has been secured to wall. 3. Fire Extinguishers are now attached to the wall. 4. Loose cords are secured to wall and floor by maintenance. 5. Hot water temperature has been re adjusted by plumber. 6. Restrictive devices have been attached to windows. 7. Lock on Gate has been repaired by maintenance. <p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All children's snacks are now stored in the fridge. 2. Change in practice to ensure mechanical ventilation is in operation every time nappy changing is occurring. <p>ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All staff have been reminded to get parents to sign forms for administration of prescribed antibiotic. <p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>GENERAL SAFETY:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be monitored by Room Leader and Management. 2. To be monitored by Room Leader on a maintenance Risk Assessment, signed off by management. 3. To be included on Risk Assessment.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

4. To be monitored by Room Leader on a maintenance Risk Assessment, signed off by management.
5. To be monitored and recorded on a daily basis by Room Leader, signed off by management on a weekly basis.
6. To be monitored by Room Leader on a maintenance Risk Assessment, signed off by management.
7. Maintenance Risk Assessment being carried out daily. Signed off by management.

INFECTION CONTROL:

1. Introduced to daily policy and procedures and staff team updated and signed off on the new practice.
2. Nappy changing policy has been updated, all staff signed off on it. Reminder notice put up outside door to turn on light switch before entering room.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

1. Policies and procedures updated to improve practice of prescribed antibiotics and all staff team signed off on new practice.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

GENERAL SAFETY:

1. Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.
2. Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.
3. Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.
4. Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.
5. Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.
6. Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.
7. Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.

INFECTION CONTROL:

1. Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.
2. Video evidence of ventilation fan in operation sent to Inspector.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

1. Photographic evidence sent to Inspector.

Summary Comment:

The actions outlined in the service's Corrective & Preventive Action (CAPA) plan together with the associated documentary evidence submitted to the Inspectorate on the 3rd, 4th & 7th of February 2022, demonstrates that the non-compliance noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 23 have been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.