

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LM032				
Name of Service:	Shannonside Community Childcare Centre				
Address of Service:	Shannonside View, Rosebank, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim				
Eircode:	N41 DY99				
Name of Registered Provider:	Christopher Gonley				
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	07/01/2026				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>5</td> <td>PM</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> </table>	AM	5	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 N Toner.				
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

Shannonside Community Childcare Centre is a registered preschool service. It is located in the Rosebank halting site on the edge of Carrick on Shannon. The service is operated under the Leitrim development Company, with the majority of children attending the service coming from the south Leitrim area. The service is registered to operate from 9:20am to 1:10pm daily catering for children aged from 0 to 6 years of age.

Staffing

On the day of inspection five adults were employed in the service. Two adults worked directly with the preschool children. An additional two adults were available to the children employed through a community employment scheme. The Registered Provider works in the office and provides support as required.

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/ 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, 16(k) 20, 23, 27 and 28

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 (k) Accident and Incident records.

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 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*
- (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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) The designated person in charge facilitated the inspection.
- (c). There was a clear structure within the care room with room leaders identified.

(2)

(a) (b)

The records of all five adults employed in the service since last inspection were reviewed.

Four written and verified past employer references and six verified references from a source other than a past employer were available in respect of all five adults.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all five adults.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)
International police vetting was available for two adults who had lived outside the state for a period of more than six months.

(4) Three adults had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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 four adults working directly with five children aged between two years and five years 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-

- (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)
All ten records of the preschool children attending the preschool service were reviewed. The registered provider ensured that a record was maintained for all preschool children including the date of birth, authorisation to collect, medical needs, vaccination history and consent for medical treatment for all children in attendance.

(3) (c)
These records were made available to the authorised person on the day.

(4)

The person in charge is aware of the statutory requirement to retain these records for a period of two years from the date the child cease to attend the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) a record referred to in subparagraph (h), (j) or (k) of 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, or in the case of a preschool service in a drop-in centre or of a temporary pre-school service, for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

(4) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises by a parent or guardian of a child but only in respect of information concerning that child.

Compliance Information

(1) (k)

Twelve accident and incident records were reviewed which demonstrated risk assessments are completed after an accident or incident and parents are informed of same.

(2) (b)

The person in charge evidenced that all records relating to accidents and incidents are maintained for a period of two years from when a child ceases to attend the service.

(3)

These records were made available for review by the authorised person on the day of inspection.

(4)

The service demonstrated that these records were made available to the parent or guardian in respect of their child.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

Compliance Information

(1) (a)

The service consisted of two large playrooms that operated as one with free flow between the two rooms. There were adequate and suitable indoor play facilities available in each room for the age range of children attending. The rooms presented as bright and visually appealing spaces with an orderly arrangement of play equipment and materials set into defined areas of interest. These included arts and crafts, construction, small world items, dress up props, play kitchen areas, library, sensory tables, relaxing areas, problem solving toys and wide range of manipulate play resources. Open low level shelving units enabled all items to be readily accessible to the children and suitable sized tables and chairs were available for tabletop activities.

The outdoor area is accessible by a door from the care room. A high block wall and locked metal gates ensure safety. Two outdoor sheds are equipped with a variety of ride on toys, soft play toys, tractors, footballs, mud kitchens which are set up daily for outdoor play. The ground surface consists of a mix of a shock absorbing surfaces and concrete providing opportunities for developing gross motor skills such as learning to cycle a bike.

(1) (b)

Rest areas are provided in the main care room with soft matting and cushions. This area is located beside the library which allows children an opportunity to take time out and rest looking at books or opt out of an activity.

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 service was secure on the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service.
- The outdoor perimeter was secured with high block fencing and locked metal gates.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the preschool child.
- The Kitchen was inaccessible to the preschool child.
- Windows were risk assessed with locks in place as required.

Infection Control:

- The service was observed to be clean with up to date cleaning schedules in place.
- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were provided for effective hand hygiene.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available in the service for safe disposal of waste. The bins outdoors were situated behind a locked gate ensuring the preschool children could not have access.

Fire Safety:

- On the day evacuation doors remained clear ensuring safe egress from the service in an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. An electrical extension cable used to power the service fridge was trailing and potentially posed a risk of strangulation to the preschool child if not secured.
2. The gate to the service oil tank was open when inspectors checked in the morning posing a risk of safety to the preschool child. This was a non-compliance on the services most recent inspection on the 30 January 2024. Once brought to the attention of the person in charge this was rectified immediately.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

In a written response the registered provider stated:

1. A new plug has been installed for the fridge. There will be no trailing cables in the preschool.

- The gate to the oil tank was secured immediately with a lock and the keys stored in the office.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Photographic evidence
- Photographic evidence

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider have adequately addressed the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The service ensured that the preschool children were appropriately supervised by sight or sound at all times. Mealtimes were observed to be a relaxed social event where the adults sat alongside the children having their own lunch while supervising children as they ate and conversed. Adults were observed to prompt and encourage the children to try new foods.

Play time was observed to be supervised adequately both indoors and outdoors. The adults placed themselves outdoors to ensure children were always in view. The adults were observed to communicate well with each other, informing another adult if they had to leave the area, to bring a child to the bathroom or retrieve toys. Independence was promoted in toileting; however, the adults remained in ear shot of the preschool child prompting and offering support if required.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service demonstrated adequate insurance with a certificate for 22 children in a sessional service from 13 January 2025 to 13 January 2026.

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