

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH028		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Cheeky Monkeys		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Old Clonard, Clonard, Co. Meath		
<b>Eircode:</b>	A83 H983		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Treacy Raleigh		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/09/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM 6
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D. Murray		
<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).

**Conditions if applicable** Not Applicable.

### Description of service

Cheeky Monkeys provides sessional care and education to children from 2 to 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) and operates from 9.00 to 12.00 hours with an afternoon session in the Busy Monkeys room from 12:30 to 15:30pm.

The service is located in a purpose-built building on the grounds of the registered providers home and consists of the following 3 care rooms:

Room 1 Cheeky Monkeys facilitated the care and education of children from 2 years 5 months to 3 years 8 months.

Room 2 Busy Monkeys facilitated the care and education of children from 3 years 8 months to 6 years.

Room 3 Happy Monkeys (Outdoor room) facilitated the care and education of children from 2 years 5 months to 6 years. Other facilities available in the service were a sensory room, children and staff sanitary facilities, 1 outdoor space directly adjacent to the outdoor room with a second outdoor space for rooms 1 & 2.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs 5 childcare staff members. The registered provider and 4 childcare staff members were present on the day of inspection.

### 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.

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, 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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) Six staff files were reviewed.

(a)&(b) Twelve validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the 6 staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was available for 1 staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All 6 childcare staff had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(6) (a) Two staff members were employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

### 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) The registered providers ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service on the day of inspection.

Room 1 Cheeky Monkeys there were 2 childcare staff providing care and education to 9 children ranging in age from 2 years 5 months to 3 years 8 months.

Room 2 Busy Monkeys there was 1 childcare staff providing care and education to 11 children ranging in age from 3 years 8 months to 6 years.

Room 3 Happy Monkeys (Outdoor room) there were 2 childcare staff providing care and education to 8 children ranging in age from 2 years 5 months to 6 years.

### 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) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

#### Basic needs:

- The service embraced outdoor play and learning with the children in the Happy Monkeys outdoor room having freedom to movement between the sheltered care room and outdoor space. The children in the Cheeky Monkeys and Busy Monkeys room had access to a separate outdoor space. Children were appropriately dressed in outdoor clothing and boots. The outdoor spaces had areas of interest which supported children's play and curiosity with adequate space for children to play alone and in small and large groups. Children were observed enjoying imaginative, energetic and messy outdoor play with both their peers and staff members. Staff supported children's learning with activities that were observed to be fun and creative. The curriculum was child led with the themes of the month being "Settling In", "My Family and Me" and "Autumn."
- Children's individual needs were well supported during snack time and when going to the toilet with gentle reminders regarding hand washing. During activities children were offered choices and sought out staff members who readily acknowledged and encouraged the children's efforts and accomplishments.

#### Supporting relationships around children:

- The adult's demonstrated knowledge of the individual care needs of the children especially the children with additional needs. Children were comforted when they became upset with the staff adopting behavioural management strategies such as speaking to the child softly and promoting turn taking and sharing. Challenging behaviour when presented was dealt with in a calm and caring manner and the

children responded well to distraction, change of environment and re-direction. Staff members were heard encouraging children to be mindful of the feelings of those around them which promoted an ethos of friendship and working together.

- Children and parents were greeted at drop off and collection with friendly conversation overheard. The staff members communicated with parents on a daily basis and also by phone messages sent home on a Friday regarding activities pertaining to their child. The children's individual scrapbooks were sent home on a regular basis.

### 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-

(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.

(2) A registered provider-

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or

shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(b) Cosy areas consisting of mats, cushions and soft furnishings were available in each care room should a child needed to take a break from activities and rest.

(2)(a) Both outdoor spaces were enclosed by railings and walls with secure gates. Both spaces had an artificial grass surface.

### 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

- All 3 care rooms were well resourced and have areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys. Play materials and equipment were visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supported children to have choices in selecting their activity. Tables and chairs were available in the rooms for tabletop activities and for indoor and outdoor dining.
- The outdoor spaces were well equipped and included activity tray, playhouse, climbing tunnel, tyres, sand pit, water table, mud kitchen, construction area, activity unit with slide and swings, see saw, wooden hut, planting and digging area.

### 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 following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- The main gate to the service was secured. This ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and the 2 outdoor spaces.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- All furniture and display units had a stable base with no risk of toppling identified.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.

##### Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- The hand washing policy was implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times.

- The service was clean with cleaning schedules maintained on a daily basis.
- Liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided in all sanitary facilities.
- Fridges were available for the storage of perishable items in the children’s lunch boxes.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. One staff members garda vetting disclosures was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice ‘EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting’.

### Infection Control:

2. The following was observed in the Cheeky Monkeys care room:
  - A child’s nappy was changed on a mat on the floor beside the toilet in the sanitary area off the Cheeky Monkeys care room.
  - A soiled nappy was placed in a nappy bag and put into an open top bin causing an unpleasant odour in the sanitary area. There was no enclosed pedal operated nappy bin available for the disposal of nappies.
3. In the 3 care rooms perishable items of food in children’s lunch boxes were not refrigerated. This increases the risk of bacterial growth in these food items.
4. Children’s play equipment were stored in the staff toilet which increases the risk of cross contamination.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1.The staff member garda vetting has been renewed. A formal vetting renewal monitoring system has been established to ensure ongoing compliance with the three-year vetting renewal requirement.

#### Infection Control:

2.
  - A new nappy changing unit has been installed to ensure that all nappy changes are carried out in a hygienic and appropriate manner in line with health and safety standards.
  - A pedal-operated nappy disposal bin has been purchased and is now in use to prevent the spread of odours and reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

All relevant staff have been retrained in nappy changing and disposal procedures with an emphasis on infection control.

3. Staff were reminded to store all perishable items in the childrens lunch boxes in a fridge at or below 5°C upon arrival to the service.

The temperature of the refrigerator will be checked and recorded on a daily basis to ensure compliance with food safety standards. A food storage policy was implemented requiring all perishable items to be refrigerated immediately on arrival to the service.

4. All children’s play equipment was immediately removed from the staff toilet and transferred to a clean designated storage area away from sanitary facilities. Any items stored were disinfected immediately to eliminate any possible contamination.

A specific storage area has been assigned for children’s play equipment ensuring it is clean, dry and separate from toilet and cleaning areas. Regular inspections will be conducted by the supervisor to ensure compliance with storage and hygiene requirements.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic evidence of the following:

Updated garda vetting for the staff member.

Nappy changing unit has replaced storage area used for play equipment.

Pedal operated bin.

Children’s lunch boxes stored in a fridge.

Nappy changing policy

Food storage policy.

### **Summary Comment**

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances. The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

### 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) The service provided evidence that a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

### 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was on 18/06/2025. The pre-school was closed for the summer months.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fire fighting equipment was last serviced in September 2024. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 12/12/2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 35 children at any one time attending the service. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2025 to the 27/03/2026.