

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH102
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Name of Service:	Simonstown Childcare Facility CLG
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Address of Service:	Simonstown Childcare Facility CLG, Kingscourt Road, Navan, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	C15 N61X
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marie Daly
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	02/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	41	PM	29
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham & D Murray
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

Simonstown Community Childcare is one of 10 services operated by CRANN Community services in Co. Meath. The service provides full day care, part-time and sessional care. to children from 0 to 6 years and also provides school aged service. Hours of operation are from 07.30am to 18.00pm, with a sessional ECCE service from 09.30am to 12.30pm. The service is located adjacent to Simonstown GAA club and consists of four care rooms downstairs, namely the Nursery room, 1-2 room, 2-3 rooms and 3-5 room. The school ages children are accommodated upstairs.

Additionally, there is a kitchen on the ground floor level and kitchenette on the first floor, nappy changing and sanitary facilities. A reception area is available in the entrance ha

Staffing

The registered provider employs twenty-three staff which includes a manager, assistant manager, 14 childcare staff, 4 staff who only provide care to school aged children, 2 kitchen staff, and a cleaner. On the day of inspection, the assistant manager, 13 childcare staff, 5 staff who provide care to school aged children only, 2 kitchen staff and a cleaner were present.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the assistant manager, 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) 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.

(c) A clear management structure that identified specific roles of each employee was displayed in the reception area.

(2) (a)&(b) Twenty-three staff files were reviewed, which included the manager, assistant manager, 12 child care staff, 4 staff members who cared for school aged children only, 2 kitchen staff and a cleaner.

Forty six validated written references were available either from a past employ employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for 5 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All childcare staff members 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

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting was not available for 1 staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

Police vetting has been sought for this staff member and submitted it to the Inspectorate on the 15th September 2025.

Preventive Action

Management will review the staff folders more frequently but also will be more mindful in reviewing CV's and identify staff who have worked aboard for a period of time to comply with police vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Police vetting documentation received for the staff member.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has addressed the noncompliance in Regulation 9.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the following rooms throughout the inspection:

(2) The rooms were as follows:

The Baby Room: Two staff members cared for 2 children ranging in age from 11 months to 1 year, availing of full day care.

The 1-2 Room: Two staff members cared for 7 children ranging in age from 1 to 2 years availing of the full day care.

The 2-3 Room: Two staff members cared for 7 children ranging in age from 22 months to 3 years, 5 children availing of full day care and 2 children availing of availing of the part time care.

The Pre School Room 1: Two staff members cared for 15 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 4 years, 9 children availing of full day care and 6 children availing of part time care. An additional 2 relief staff member were available to this room during nappy changing times.

Pre-school Room 2: Two staff members cared for 10 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 4 years, 7 children availing of full day care, 1 child availing of parttime care and 2 children availing of sessional care.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster, the manager ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

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

Basic Care Needs:

The inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place. The children moved freely in all rooms – exploring their environment, playing and engaging with each other and the staff. Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed children by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. Language used by the staff members was observed to be encouraging, supportive and informative. Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to a new activity and for mealtimes. Drinks were readily available within the care rooms. Mealtimes were social occasions with children and adults sitting together, staff provided children with help when needed. Younger children were supported to eat independently, and bibs were worn during meals to protect the children's clothes from becoming soiled or wet. Children were assisted to clean their faces and hands at appropriate times. Older children used the toilet independently and children wearing nappies had these changed regularly. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm one to one interaction with the children.

Supporting Relationships:

Children who were settling into the service and became upset at intervals were held and comforted by the staff, it was observed with that the children reengaged with the room activities and were always supported. Individual daily reports were kept throughout the day to give to parents/guardians to provide for continuation of care. Engagement with families and parents is facilitated by the daily sharing of information on the child's day. This is shared through conversations at drop off and collection and supported by electronic means. Identity and belonging were promoted in all care rooms with children's family photos, and artwork displayed on the walls of the care rooms and corridors throughout the service and visible to children. Children spent time outdoors throughout the day and were dressed appropriate to the weather. Children in the Baby room and 1 to 2 room were placed to sleep as part of the room routine. The sleep rooms were calm and conducive to sleep. Children who had soothers were offered these when they were being placed to sleep. Staff provided the children with

comfort and reassurance as they were settling to sleep, talking to them gently and sitting next to them. Areas were provided within all rooms where children could rest or take break from activities.

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.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or

Compliance Information

(1)(b) Adequate facilities for rest were provided in the service for the number and age range of children attending. A cot room off the Baby room had 4 standard cots and the 1-2 room had 9 cots in total. The older children were facilitated to sleep on stackable beds which were placed in the care rooms. All cots were observed to be in good condition with appropriately fitting mattresses. Within all care rooms there were suitable rest areas with floor mats, cushions and soft toys provided, should a child need to rest or take a break from activities during the day.

(3)(a) The outdoor area was fully enclosed with fencing and gated. The outdoor area had a soft surface covering. A partially covered area was also available.

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

- The care rooms had a range of play materials and equipment that offered stimulation, exploration and imagination. These were positioned at an accessible level on open shelving which nurtured independence, facilitated choices, encouraged curiosity, spontaneous play and movement.
- The outdoor area had a soft surface covering. Equipment available included ride on toy, sit on toys a water table, staff brought out colouring materials and some children sat on a mat colouring. A partially covered area was also available.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service had a weekly menu plan. On the day of inspection breakfast was served between 07:30 and 09:00am which includes a variety of cereals and toast. A morning snack was served at 10am which was fruits, apple, pears, orange's, grapes and melon with the children's own bottled water. The children attending the ECCE session brought their own healthy lunch from home. Dinner was served to the younger children at 11.30am and the older children at 12.30pm which consisted of chicken stew with carrots and potato. An afternoon snack was served between 15.00hrs and 16.00hrs which consisted of bananas, brown bread and their own drink.

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:

- When the inspectors arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorized persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. In addition, the outdoor play area was securely gated restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.
- Anti-febrile medication and cleaning agents were stored in high cupboards

Infection Control:

- Measures were taken to minimise the risk of infection spreading.
- Soothers were kept in individual containers to avoid cross-contamination.
- Appropriate infection control measures were taken during nappy changing including the use of gloves, aprons, and thorough handwashing after changes.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and pedal operated bins.
- The children and adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection.
- Waste was managed appropriately using pedal-operated bins.
- Each child was provided with their own bed linen, which was laundered weekly and stored individually between uses.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the sleep rooms for the younger children, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. An adult remained in the sleep room with the older children. Standard cots and stackable beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were recorded and maintained at the required temperature ranges

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis

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 took place on 08/08/2025.
- (b) A record was maintained of the mains powered smoke alarms and firefighting equipment on the premises. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 23/07/2025. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in July 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in 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 95 children at any one time attending for full day care. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28th March 2025 to the 27th March 2026.