

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN010
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Name of Service:	Carrickmacross Childcare Ltd
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Address of Service:	Carrickmacross Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan
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Eircode:	A81 E372
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Name of Registered Provider:	Vera Keyes
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	20/09/2023
	22/09/2023

No of pre-school children:	AM	48	PM	38
		48		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange, Plantation Walk, Monaghan
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader
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

This privately owned service commenced in 2002 and provides full day care services to children aged 1 -6 years. The service operates from 07:00 - 6:30pm and caters for a maximum of 85 children. This service is located in a 2-story community building in the town of Carrickmacross Co. Monaghan. There are 4 care rooms, 2 nappy changing areas, a sleep room, children's sanitary accommodation, a kitchen and an office. There are 2 outdoor areas to the back and side of the building.

Staffing

There are 16 staff employed in the service, 15 staff members who work directly with the children which includes the service manager, the registered provider and 1 staff member employed as the cook.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance and as a result, the scope of the inspection included the Senior and Junior Preschool Rooms and Naíonra Rois.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 20, 22, 25, 26, 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 23. 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 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,

(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 deputy both of whom were present during the inspection.

The following was recorded in respect of all 16 staff files reviewed.

(2)(a) and (b) Two written and validated references were available for each member of staff. From the 32 references available 19 were from a past employer and 13 from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Evidence of the 16 completed Garda vetting disclosures for all the staff members were available for review.

(d) International police vetting was available for the 1 staff member who had lived outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult.

(4) The 15 staff members working directly with the children had an appropriate childcare qualification at a minimum Level 5.

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) An adequate number of adults were observed working directly with the children. The required minimum adult to child ratios were met.

(2) On Day 1 of inspection there were 4 rooms in operation namely the Junior Room, the Senior Room, Naíonra Rois and Seomra Caoimhín.

The following adult to child ratios were observed:

- **The Junior Room:**

There were 10 preschool children aged between 2 years and 3 months to 4 years cared for by 3 members of staff.

- **The Senior Room:**

There were 8 children aged 3- 4 years cared for by 1 member of staff.

- **Naíonra Rois:**

There were 14 children aged 2 years and 9 months – 4 years with 3 members of staff.

- **Seomra Caoimhín:**

There were 16 children aged 3 – 4 years of age cared for by 3 staff members.

On Day 2 of inspection there were 4 rooms in operation namely the Junior Room, the Senior Room, Naíonra Rois and Seomra Caoimhín.

The following adult to child ratios were observed:

- **The Junior Room:**

There were 9 preschool children aged between 2 years and 3 months to 4 years cared for by 3 members of staff.

- **The Senior Room:**

There were 8 children aged 3- 4 years cared for by 1 member of staff.

- **Naíonra Rois:**

There were 16 children aged 2 years and 9 months – 4 years with 3 members of staff.

- **Seomra Caoimhín:**

There were 15 children aged 3 – 4 years of age cared for by 3 staff members.

The service manager and registered provider were also on the premises and assisted where required in the rooms. The staff ratios were correct.

(8) The registered provider ensured that there are always at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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,

(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,

Compliance Information

(1)(b) The children attending the care rooms had access to a suitable soft area for reading or taking a rest when required. The areas consisted of soft mats, cushions and plastic covered cubes.

There was a cot room off the Senior Room with stackable beds and appropriate linen for any child over the age of 2 years who might require a sleep.

(3)(a) There were 2 outdoor areas accessible to the children.

Area 1:

This fully enclosed area was directly outside the Junior Preschool Room. This area had a safety surface and contained a plastic climbing frame with slide, some ride on toys, a buddy bench and plastic playhouses.

Area 2:

This area was to the side of the building and consisted of a safety surface area and a garden area with a gazebo, sand box, mud kitchens and planting areas. The children had access to balance bikes, ride on cars, plastic playhouses and blackboards in the area with the safety surface. The outdoor area was secured with fencing, a wall and gate.

Non-Compliance Information

In the outdoor area outside the Junior Room the following hazards were identified:

1. The safety surface had some raised and loose floor tiles which were a trip hazard.
2. One of the towers on the plastic climbing frame was broken at the bottom and had sharp edges. This was a potential injury hazard.
3. The steering wheel of a pink ride-on toy was broken in half and a potential injury hazard.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated in the CAPA that the following was completed;

1. Repair of loose tiles.
2. Plastic climbing tower removed
3. Broken toys removed

Staff instructed to review the toys regularly and remove broken ones.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The information submitted by the registered provider has been reviewed. The requirement of the regulation has been met.

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

Healthy eating was promoted in the service. Breakfast, dinner and evening snack was provided by the service and the parents provided the morning snack. On the day of the inspection the dinner was provided by the cook in the service and consisted of chicken curry and rice. In the Junior Room fruit was offered to a child who did not eat much of their dinner. The dinner was of an appropriate consistency for the different age groups. The evening snack consisted of ham sandwiches and the morning snack consisted of fruit and a yogurt. Potable drinking water was available for the children to access as required in all rooms.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the Senior and Junior Rooms there were unprotected sharp corners on some of the low-level tables and shelving units. These are an injury hazard.

Infection Control:

2. The blue paper hand towel in the downstairs sanitary accommodation was sitting on the pedal operated bin and not in a dispenser. This is a cross contamination and infection control risk.
3. The polythene gloves observed in use for nappy changing were unsuitable as per best practice guidance.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider stated in the CAPA that the following was completed.

1. Plastic safety covers fitted on furniture corners.

Infection Control:

2. Blue paper roll in holder in changing room.
3. Latex gloves are now in the changing areas.

Preventive Action

Staff instructed to review the equipment regularly.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response was reviewed and the requirement of Regulation 23 has been met. Regulatory compliance will be assessed at the next inspection.

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 registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid (First Aid Responder) was always available to the pre-school children.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes available in the service were stored in conspicuous locations in the service and were available at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) and (b) There were no antiseptic cleaning wipes in the first aid box in the Junior Preschool Room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

First aid boxes checked and re supplied.

Staff instructed to check first aid boxes regularly and communicate what it is needed to management.

Summary Comment

The requirement of Regulation 25 has been met.

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 record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service, the last recorded on the 22/8/23.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated the 11/22 and 19/4/23.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were 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

Adequate insurance cover was available for up to 100 children and expires 27/3/2024.