

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN016
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Name of Service:	Clones Community Childcare
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Address of Service:	The Diamond, Clones, Co. Monaghan.
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Eircode:	H23 KF76
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Name of Registered Provider:	Jacqueline Toye
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/11/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk Monaghan
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

Clones Community Childcare is a community run non-profit service in operation since 2000. The service provides sessional care to children aged 2 to 6 years of age and caters for a maximum of 14 children. The service operates Monday - Friday from 9am -12.30pm. The service is located in part of the ground floor and first floor of a converted dwelling in the town of Clones Co. Monaghan. The service consists of 1 preschool care room and sanitary accommodation downstairs, with kitchen area and staff toilet upstairs. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the rear and side of the building.

Staffing

There are 4 staff members employed in the service, all of whom including the person in charge work directly with the preschool children.

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 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

(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) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and named deputy person to deputise as required. On the day of the inspection the person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived at the premises and was present throughout the inspection.

Four staff files were reviewed.

(2)(a) & (b) There were two written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for 2 staff members.

There was 1 written and validated reference for 2 staff members.

There was 1 written reference for 2 staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 4 staff members and the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for the 2 members of staff who had resided outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the 4 staff members working directly with the preschool children had a childcare qualification which met the minimum qualification required to enable them to work directly with the preschool children.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)

Two staff members did not have their 2nd written references validated appropriately.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)

Following the last inspection two written and validated references have been provided and placed in staff files . A checklist document has been created to ensure that the required documentation is on file for all staff members. Staff references will be checked prior to commencement of employment with the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of validated references.

Summary Comments:

The Inspectorate is satisfied that the registered provider's response has addressed the non-compliance.

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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly at all times with the children attending the early years' service.
- (3) When inspector arrived for an unannounced inspection, the adult to child ratios were correct. The following adult to child ratios were observed:
In the Preschool Room there were 9 children aged between 2 years and 9 months to 4 years being cared for by 3 staff members.

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

- There was 1 care room in operation on the day of the inspection - the Preschool Room.
- (1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service:
- Basic Needs:**

- The children who were toilet trained were encouraged to be independent with toileting. Discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Handwashing was encouraged and reminders were given to the children after toileting and messy play.
- Food for lunches were brought in by the children and stored appropriately in the fridge. They were observed to consist of sandwiches, fruit, chopped vegetables, yoghurts and drinks.
- A child whose jumper became wet at water play had it changed promptly by staff.

Supporting relationship around children

- A key worker system was in operation in the service with staff members allocated a group of children. The key person took the lead in supporting their groups transitions, recording their daily activities, maintaining relationships with their families, and documenting their learning and development.
- Communication between the parents and staff was informal at drop off and pick-up. The staff also confirmed that emails were used to communicate and share information with parents and usually sent out on a Friday.
- The staff members in the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner. Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the children and staff members, for example to get the children to settle and listen to the story “Click click “ to switch on ears”.
- Any minor behavioural issues or disagreements were dealt with swiftly and not allowed to escalate.
- The service had systems in place to assist children who required additional supports.

Physical and Material Environment

- A variety of age-appropriate toys and equipment were available in the care room on low level shelving which promoted independence and facilitated choice for the children. There were boxes with blocks, small world figures, push toys, musical instruments, wooden toys, dolls and dolls house, a home corner, dress-up clothing with a mirror for role play, art supplies and painting easels, sand tray, small world items, a kitchen, dolls house and books. Sensorial play was facilitated with sand and water trays and art supplies and equipment.

Programme Of Activities.

- A daily schedule was on display in the room.

- A weekly theme with seasonal artwork was on display such as hedgehog artwork, trees and painted letter “B”.
- Scrapbooks contained artwork from the year so far and some observations had been commenced.
- Transitions between activities and care practices were smooth.

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

The Inspectorate was not assured that adequate steps have been taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service in relation to the following observations made during the inspection:

General Safety:

1. The service record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system was dated outside the yearly service recommendation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider has taken immediate action to address this non-compliance. A full fire service was conducted on the building on 02/12/2024 by a fire protection service company and a further full fire check will be carried out again in March 2025.

A full fire service will be carried out quarterly in compliance with the regulations, along with the current monthly fire drills in the building.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Copy of fire alarm service record.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate has reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting documentation. The non-compliance has been addressed.

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) On review of the documentation and First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates available - there was one First Aid Responder (FAR) certificate and a person trained with FAR available at all times in the service.
- (2)(a) and (b) There was a first aid box available in the service which was accessible to the children at all times.

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 18/11/24.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm system dated 26/5/23.
- (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

There was adequate insurance cover in place to cover up to a maximum of 22 children which expires on the 27/3/25.