

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

MTUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN040		
Name of Service:	Magherarney Community Childcare Services Ltd		
Address of Service:	Magherarney, Smithborough, Co. Monaghan		
Eircode:	H18 YY30		
Name of Registered Provider:	Ciaran Rooney		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	15/12/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM 12
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No. 18 The Grange Plantation Road 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

Magherarney Community Childcare Services Ltd provide sessional, part-time and full day care childcare. The service is open from 8am – 5.30pm and caters for a maximum of 22 pre-school children aged between 2 - 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme each weekday Monday – Friday. This service operates from a renovated single-story old-school building on the outskirts of the village of Smithborough Co. Monaghan. There are 2 preschool rooms with a staff toilet, sanitary accommodations, nappy changing facilities and a small office provided. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the side of the premises. There is parking available outside the premises for drop offs and pickups.

Staffing

There are 4 staff in the service including the person in charge who 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 a system in place to designate a named deputy person to deputise as required. The person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

There were 4 staff files presented for inspection.

(2)(a) & (b)

- There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for all 4 members of staff.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda vetting disclosure was available for all 4 staff members in the service 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) Following a review of the staff files presented on the day of inspection, international police vetting was available for the 1 staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of greater than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that the 4 members of staff, who worked directly with the pre-school children had a minimum Level 5 childcare qualification.

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) During the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service in the 2 Preschool Rooms.

(2) When the inspector arrived unannounced to the service there were 2 rooms in operation i.e. the Senior and Junior Preschool Rooms.

The following adult: child ratios were observed:

- Two staff in the Senior Room with 8 children aged 4-5 years one of whom was employed as additional support in the room.
- Two staff in the Junior Preschool Room with 9 children aged 2 years 11 months - 3 years 11 months, one of whom was employed as additional support in the room.

After the morning session both rooms join together to cover staff breaks and all move to the Junior Room in the afternoon. The Senior Room is used for school aged children.

(8) On review of documentation the registered provider ensured that there are at least 2 adults 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, and

Compliance Information

There were 2 rooms in operation on the day of inspection namely the Junior and Senior Preschool Rooms.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service:

Basic needs:

- Attention was given to personal care such as nose blowing and cleaning faces after dinner. Help to do this was given where necessary.

- The toilet trained children were encouraged to be independent with toileting and discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children after toileting, outdoor play and before dinner.
- Children were given time to eat their dinner or lunches and support from staff was provided where necessary.
- In both care rooms the children were observed to move freely and had a change of environment to the outdoor area. The children were dressed appropriately to go outside.
- Independence was promoted with a lunch helper system.

Supporting Relationships

- Soft gentle tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the staff and children in both the rooms for example “*very good ...*”, “*will you go wash that wee face*”, “*good job*” and “*good boy yourself well done*”. The staff were observed to interact and support the children in a warm and supportive manner, thereby ensuring minor behavioural issues did not escalate.
- An electronic application the “app” was in use in the service to send messages from the rooms to parents and to inform the parents of their child’s daily activities, food intake and toileting. Pictures of activities were also communicated via the “app”. Staff reported communication was informal at drop-off and collection times.

Physical and Material Environment:

- Both care rooms were made up of areas which were well resourced for the numbers attending. There were defined interest areas, somewhere to relax, plus toys and equipment available to promote and enhance sensory play and to develop fine motor skills.
- In general toys were on low level shelving and accessible to the children. Staff in the Senior Room supported the children in choosing any toys that were situated on higher shelves.

Programme Of Activities

- A daily routine was displayed in each care room and included a written and pictorial format.
- Observation checklists, activities achieved and notes of children’s emerging interests were available.
- Activities that promoted the children’s language development such as the social conversations and seasonal song singing were also observed.

- Seasonal Christmas themed artwork was on display such as cotton wool bobble hats, collage snowmen, handprint reindeer and collage Christmas trees.

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

(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) Soft areas were available in both rooms. In the Senior Room there were 2 small plastic covered sofas, a floor mat and a small sized sofa and floor mat were in the Junior Room.

Although there were no children sleeping in the service a daybed was available should a child require to lie down and sleep.

(3)(a) There was an outdoor area to the side of the building, which was fully enclosed, walled and gated. There was a hole in the tarmacked surface which the staff covered with the small slide as a temporary measure until it is permanently fixed. Assurances were given by the person in charge that the hole will always be covered in this way and it is to be added to the outdoor daily risk assessment. The children had access to ride on toys, tree stumps, hula hoops, an art easel and black boards and a small plastic slide.

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 children brought in their own lunches for morning and afternoon breaks. Some of the older children also brought in their own drink cup. A hot dinner was prepared and cooked by the local deli and collected by a staff member and served immediately on return. Dinner on the day was spaghetti bolognese and served at 12.30pm. The service prepared a weekly dinner menu which was given to the deli to prepare daily. Afternoon snack was at 14.30 – 14.45pm and a further snack time was at 4.30 – 5pm for any children who stayed on late and were hungry.

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. The mat in the Senior Room was moving and curling up when walked on. This was a potential trip and slip hazard.
2. In the Junior Room the cupboard under the sink was unlocked and contained cleaning sprays, floor cleaner, a bottle of bleach and a bottle of sterilizing agent. These were potentially accessible to the children and a health and safety risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Grips have been added to all corners of the mat. These grip and stick to both the floor and mat. All staff are aware of the new grips and to ensure that the mat area is monitored to make sure the grips work effectively at all times. As soon as there are any changes to the effectiveness of the grips it is recorded on our daily risk assessment checklist sheet and for the mat to be removed immediately until resolved.

2. The cleaning products were placed in the cupboard beside it that can lock until the lock was fixed. It was fixed that afternoon and no issues since. Ensure locks are checked when carrying out the morning risk assessment checklist and cupboard to be cleared immediately if there was an issue with the lock until it can be resolved.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting evidence. The non-compliances have been addressed.