

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN047
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Name of Service:	Rockcorry Community Childcare
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Address of Service:	Boyher, Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan
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Eircode:	H18 F206
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Name of Registered Provider:	Karen Brady
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	15/04/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	21
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk Monaghan Co. 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

Rockcorry Community Childcare is a community-based non-profit service in operation since 2006. The service provides full day-care, part-time care and sessional care to children aged 0-6 years of age. The service operates Monday -Friday from 8 – 6.00pm. The service is located in a community building in the village of Rockcorry Co. Monaghan. The service consists of a 2 care rooms, 1 designated sleep room located of the Baby and Toddler Room an office and a kitchen. There is an outdoor area on the premises located to the rear and side of the building.

Staffing

There are 17 staff employed in the service, 11 of whom including the manager work directly with the preschool children. There were 2 adults present in an admin capacity, 1 adult employed as cook and 3 adults employed to work directly with the school aged 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19 and 25; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 20, 23 and 29. 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 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 on the premises and was present throughout the inspection.

(2)(a) & (b) Seventeen staff files reviewed.

There were:

- Two written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for all 17 staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff members. 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 in relation to 3 other staff members. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Following a review of the staff files presented for inspection documentary evidence for 1 staff member who required international police vetting from 2 countries was available.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 13 staff members in total had a childcare qualification which met the minimum qualification required to enable them to work directly with the preschool children.

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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the early years' service at all times.

(2) When the inspector arrived for an unannounced inspection, the adult to child ratios were correct and remained so throughout the day.

The following adult to child ratios were observed on arrival of the inspector on the day of inspection:

- In the **Baby/Toddler Room** there were 7 children aged between 1 year to 1 year and 11 months being cared for by 4 adults and 1 adult present in a supernumerary capacity.
- In the **Preschool Room** there were 16 children aged between 3 - 5 years and months being cared for by 4 adults.

(8)(a) Following a review of the available documentation e.g., staff rotas and children’s attendance records, this information demonstrated that the registered provider ensured that there were 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

Compliance Information

There were 2 rooms in operation on the day of the inspection: namely the Baby /Toddler Room and 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 staff in all rooms attended to the children’s personal care with attention given to cleaning faces and noses as required and children were also dressed appropriately to go outside.
- Nappies were changed regularly and in a timely manner with pleasant interactions observed between children and staff. The children who were toilet trained were encouraged to be independent with toileting. Discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children after toileting.
- In the Preschool Room the parents provided the lunches. Dinners and afternoon snacks were provided by the service. Dinner on the day was homemade by the service cook and consisted of carrot and coriander soup, potatoes, gravy, pasta and a selection of sandwiches and toasted sandwiches.
- Assistance was given to the younger children who required feeding. Bibs were put on the younger children before meals. Staff were observed to sit with the older children at mealtimes and this time was used to encourage conversations between the children. The children engaged with the cook in the Preschool Room and went up themselves to choose their dinner and in the Baby / Toddler Room the cook sat down at the table with the children to serve their food.

- In the Baby / Toddler Room, individual child-led sleep needs were facilitated in the service as the staff followed the children's routines.
- The children were observed to move freely in the care rooms and the children in the Preschool Room had a change of environment into the outdoor areas throughout the day. The children in the Baby / Toddler Room were unable to access the outdoor area due to strong winds and equipment blowing in the outdoor area. They were however facilitated with water play indoors instead.

Supporting relationship around children

- A key person system was in operation in the 2 rooms, where each staff member had a small group of children assigned to them and the key person took the lead in supporting that groups transitions, recording their daily activities, maintaining relationships with their families, and documenting their learning and development.
- Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the children in all the rooms. The staff were observed down on the floor with the children in the Baby / Toddler Room and were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner.
- Staff used an electronic application (an 'App') to provide information to parents on their child's care and daily routine in the service on a daily basis. Information shared included details of each child's personal care routines such as what they ate, when they slept, nappy changes and play activities. The staff also reported that communication with parents is conducted verbally at collection and drop off.

Programme Of Activities

- The children's artwork such as paper plate balloons and handprint dinosaurs were on display. Evidence of planning and the daily routine were on display. Scrapbooks were available for each child containing artwork, observations and photographs of the children partaking in 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(b) There were soft comfortable areas in the rooms which consisted of mats, small sofas and cushions which a child could sit and relax on or take a break from an activity. There was an adult chair in the Baby/Toddler Room where an adult could sit and nurse and baby or small child.

There were 2 sleep rooms off the Baby/Toddler Room. Sleep Room 1 had 5 standard cots available for the children aged under 2 years of age. Additionally, there were 3 cots in the 2nd sleep room. Day beds were also available for those children aged over 2 to rest.

Non-Compliance Information

In sleep room 1, the following non-compliances were identified:

1. A total of 3 fleece blankets were positioned on the side of 3 cots and 1 was observed in use on a sleeping child aged 1 year and 6 months. This is a safety risk.
2. All blankets were stored on top of each other in a box which is a cross contamination risk.
3. Three of the cot frames had accumulations of dust on them.
4. Four of the cot mattresses were stained and required cleaning or replacement.
5. One of the mattress sheets was too big and ill-fitting and this is a safety risk.
6. The art drying rack was stored in the sleep room with wet paintings on it adjacent to one of the cots and was accessible to any child who would be placed in this cot. This is a safety risk.

In sleep room 2 the following non-compliances were identified:

7. One of the cot mattresses were stained and required cleaning or replacement.
8. One cot frame had accumulations of dust on it.
9. Three of the children's sleeping bags were stored on top of each other on a shelving unit which is a cross contamination risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)

1. The fleece blankets have been removed.

Fleece blankets have been added to the policy of items not allowed into cots.

2. All Children's boxes have been relabelled, including the boxes that contain freshly laundered bedding that are stored in the sleep room, so that sheets in use will not be stored together.
Labels are carefully monitored so that staff are aware of the bed-linen contents in each box.
Checking the boxes and labels has been added to the weekly cleaning list in the sleep room.
3. A deep clean was conducted in the sleep room.
The sleep room cleaning sheets have been updated and will be monitored by manager.
4. New cot mattresses were ordered and replaced when the new ones arrived.
Checking the mattresses for stains has been added to the weekly cleaning sheets.
New mattresses protectors were ordered and now in use to prevent staining in the future .
5. The sheet has been removed and replaced with a sheet that fits the mattress correctly.
Sheets that are old or out of shape have been removed and bedlinen will be monitored and replaced as necessary. Added to the weekly cleaning list associated with the sleep room.
6. The art rack was removed.
The art rack was moved to an appropriate place and added to the daily risk assessment ensuring that no irrelevant items are stored in the sleep room.
7. New cot mattress was ordered and old mattress replaced when the new one arrived.
Going forward, checking of mattresses has been added to weekly cleaning list for the sleep room, new mattresses protectors were ordered and are in use to prevent staining.
8. A deep clean of the sleep room was carried out.
The sleep room cleaning sheets have been updated and will be monitored by manager.
9. All Children's boxes have been relabelled, including the boxes that contain freshly laundered bedding that are stored in the sleep room, so that sheets in use will not be stored together.
Labels are carefully monitored so that staff is aware of which boxes hold what sheets,
Checking the boxes and labels has been added to the weekly cleaning list in the sleep room.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary checklist of sleep room checklist and baby room cleaning sheet and updated safe sleep policy submitted.

Photographic evidence of storage bed-linen boxes and weekly cleaning sheet and submitted.

Photographic evidence of purchase orders for cots and bed-linen submitted.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting documentation. The non-compliances identified have been addressed and will be for review at the next inspection.

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. Garda vetting was available for 3 other staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were 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. In the Baby/Toddler Room it was reported that the children's soothers were cleaned by running them under the hot tap. This is an inadequate method of cleaning and at variance to the service policy.
3. In the Baby/Toddler Room it was reported that the toys were cleaned with a disinfectant and hot water. This is at variance to best practice and with the service cleaning policy.

Safe Sleep:

4. In the Baby/Toddler Room sleep checks were not always carried out and recorded within the recommended 10-minute intervals for example; 1 child who was sleeping had sleep checks recorded at 10:19, 10:44 and 10:57 and another sleeping child had checks recorded at 12:58, 13:17, 13:31 and nothing until they were awake at 14:08.
5. In sleep room 2 the room thermometer was turned off therefore, there were no means of accurately recording the sleep room temperature when the children were sleeping. In addition, the sleep room temperatures were not being recorded at each 10 minute sleep check.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. All staff members received Garda vetting forms and the process has now been completed and vetting obtained.

To ensure all staff files are up to date a checklist with dates has been added to the front of each staff member file.

Infection Control:

2/3. The correct method of sterilising the soothers was implemented in the room according to the policy and a steriliser specifically for pacifiers was purchased for the room.

Have updated policy to include steriliser and have given a copy of the policy to the baby and toddler room to reread and refresh their knowledge of the accident, incident and infection control policy to become familiar with correct methods of cleaning again, manager will monitor this.

Safe Sleep:

4. Updated and implemented the safe sleep policy and sleep checks are completed every 10 minutes. Manager will monitor this to ensure that 10-minute checks are completed.

The staff that are in the baby and toddler room have completed an online E-course for facilitating safe sleep.

5. A new thermometer was purchased and instructions regarding the temperature on the tablet was carried out to allow all staff to know how to record accurate temperature readings during each 10-minute check.

The staff that are in the baby and toddler room have completed an online E-course for facilitating safe sleep.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Documentary evidence of updated staff checklist submitted.

Garda vetting disclosures submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of purchase order for new steriliser submitted.

Documentary evidence of accident, illness and infection control policy submitted.

Safe Sleep:

Photographic evidence of purchase order for thermometer and safe sleep online training course submitted.

Documentary evidence of safe sleep policy submitted.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the documentary evidence and supporting documentation submitted by the registered provider and are satisfied the non-compliances identified in Regulation 23 have been addressed.

These will be for review 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 there was a person trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR) at all times in the service.

(2)(a) and (b) There was a first aid box for the children in the service available at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) and (b) There were no eye pads in the first aid boxes.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) and (b)

Eye pads were purchased and are available in the first aid box.

The contents of the First aid boxes will be monitored on a regular basis.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of purchased eye-pads submitted.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate are satisfied the non-compliance has been addressed.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

Non-Compliance Information

(c) One of the fans in the nappy changing area in the Baby/Toddler Room was not working and the 2nd fan had accumulations of dust on it. There was a lingering odour at times in this area.

(d) In the Baby/Toddler Room, the walls were chipped in places and the paint work was in a state of disrepair.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- c. The care-taker checked and cleaned the fans to make sure that they were operating correctly.
Added to cleaning list in the nappy changing area.
- d. Care taker has sanded the walls around the chips to prevent more peeling and the Baby / Toddler Room was repainted.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of cleaned fan and painted walls submitted.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate has reviewed the registered providers response and is satisfied that the non-compliances identified have been addressed. These will be for review at the next inspection.