

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN006				
Name of Service:	Cam Childcare Ltd				
Address of Service:	Cam, Brideswell, Athlone, Co. Roscommon				
Eircode:	N37 FH21				
Name of Registered Provider:	Karen Grehan				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	25/09/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>33</td> <td>PM</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	AM	33	PM	0
AM	33	PM	0		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Kennedy
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 community operated purpose-built early learning and care service is in the outskirts of a village of Brideswell, near the town of Athlone, Co. Roscommon. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care and sessional programme from 8.30hrs to 12.00hrs, from Monday to Friday. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is registered to accommodate a maximum of 41 children. There are two playrooms namely the Junior room and the Senior room, with allocated sanitary areas. There is a secure outdoor play area to the rear of the pre-school for children's play, fresh air and exploration.

Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and does not work in the service daily. The registered provider acts as relief in event of staff absence. Six of the staff (including the registered provider) hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. Additionally, there are two adults on an employment scheme who are supernumerary and have an auxiliary function.

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 Regulations 9,11,23,25,26 and 28. 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*
- (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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputize in the service.

(b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

Documentary evidence indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

The files of the registered provider, the five staff, and the two adults on an employment scheme were reviewed.

(2)(a) &(b) Sixteen of the sixteen validated written references on file in respect of the registered provider, five staff, the two auxiliary staff members were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

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

(d) Documentary evidence indicated that one of the staff had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years, and had the required police vetting.

(4) Six staff had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.*
- (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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (2) Documentary evidence indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.
- On the morning of the inspection, there were 33 pre-school children present. All children were aged between 2 years and 8 months to 5 years. There were five staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, there were two adults on an employment scheme.
- (3) The person in charge ensured that there were two staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

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:

- The entry to the premises and the staff only areas (kitchen, kitchenette, storerooms) were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.

- The external outdoor play area was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were secured and or inaccessible to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- There were visibility strips on the glass doors as a safety precaution.
- The playroom temperatures were thermostatically controlled, and maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- Accessible openable windows had restrictive access devices as a safety precaution.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- The staff clearly identified to the early year's inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- There were no pits or ponds in the designated outdoor area to cause any risk of injury to the pre-school child.

Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposal paper towels.
- Children were observed washing their hands after toileting, after messy play and outdoor play and prior to their snacks.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposal paper towels and disinfectant spray.
- There was outdoor sink in the outdoor play area to the rear of the premises as well as four indoor wash hand basins in the sanitary areas.
- The playrooms were kept adequately ventilated with the windows and the door left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playroom.
- The service had a cleaning templates and schedules.

Administration of Medication:

- There were no medications administered to the children on the day of the inspection.

- The staff demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regards to the safe storage and administration of medication should it be required.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- It was observed that one child was wearing amber bead jewellery which poses a potential choking/inhalation hazard. It is acknowledged that subsequent to the inspection, the person in charge provided evidence of communication with the parents to advise that amber bead jewellery is not permitted in the service.
- Garda vetting was available for the eight staff members. However, one of these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years and was not in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider submitted a written response to state

- The service has developed a policy on the non-wearing of jewellery. This policy has been shared with the parents and has been included in the parent handbook. Staff are all aware of the jewellery policy and have been advised accordingly on what to do should a child arrive to pre-school wearing any jewellery. And the staff are aware of the jewellery policy and have been advised on what to do should a child arrive to the preschool wearing any jewellery. They have been advised to remove it with the child's permission, and a reminder text would be sent to the parents.
- Garda vetting has been obtained for the staff member whose vetting was out of date, and the service have sent up a reminder system to ensure the vetting's are within the required time frame.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

The registered provider submitted evidence of

- The screenshot sent to the parents to advise on wearing of jewellery.
- The vetting for the staff member

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on 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 service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Two adults had current training in first aid responder training.

(2)(a) In each playroom, there was a first aid box with content items in date, safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes, were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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 firefighting 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 drills were dated 28th of April and 10th of February 2025

(b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment The smoke and fire detection alarm system had an annual service dated 4th of September 2025.

(4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) It was noted that the last fire drills were carried out on 28th of April and 10th of February 2025.

Fire drills must be carried out monthly to ensure the children are familiar with the procedure in event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider submitted a written response to advise that

(1)(a) A reminder system has been set up to ensure that drills are carried out monthly. All staff have been given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the fire policy to ensure that everyone understand the correct protocol to follow. A staff member has been assigned to the task of ensuring that fire drills are carried out monthly

Supporting documentation submitted

The registered provider submitted the reminder record for monthly fire drills.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the action and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 has been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service's insurance with an expiry date 27th of March 2026, was for a sessional service covering 41 children included the following –

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) Adequate floor space was provided in the senior preschool room to cater for nineteen children

(3) The floor space was 36.2 square meters, thereby allowing a maximum of nineteen sessional children to attend this room.