

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO002				
Name of Service:	Anne Carton Creche				
Address of Service:	The Hawthorns, Carraroe, Co. Sligo				
Eircode:	F91 PW96				
Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Carton				
Service type:	Full Day				
Date of Inspection:	03/09/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>47</td> <td>PM</td> <td>26</td> </tr> </table>	AM	47	PM	26
AM	47	PM	26		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84				
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello and K Folan				
Title:	Early Years Inspectors				

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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Anne Cartons Crèche is a private full day care early years' service. It is located in a housing development on the edge of Sligo Town. The service caters for a maximum of 61 preschool children ranging in age from 18 months to 6 years. The operating hours are 7:30am to 6pm. School aged children are also catered for in the service. The service operates from a purpose-built building. There are four care rooms available to the children including a Toddler room and three Preschool rooms. There is an office, a kitchen and a separate sleep room located off the main corridor. There are two nappy changing rooms for younger children and sanitary facilities for older children accessible off the care rooms. There is a large outdoor play area and one smaller covered area to the left of the building. A larger grassed area is accessible to the rear of the building

Staffing

The registered provider is the owner of the service and is involved in the daily operations of the service. There are nineteen adults employed in the service, which include two office admin, one cook and sixteen adults working directly with 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19, 23, 25 and 26 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 22 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation, 19, 23, As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms name rooms Preschool 2, Preschool 4 and the Toddler room.

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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice regarding the unavailability of garda vetting for one adult was issued by the early year's inspectorate to the registered provider on the 4th of September. The registered provider submitted a written response on the 9th of September to the early year' inspectorate in relation to the immediate action notice.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provide, 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).

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(2) (a) (b).

The records of all nineteen adults employed in the service were reviewed.

38 written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of the nineteen adults employed in the service

c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for eighteen staff members. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes for one adult 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.

(4)
Fifteen adults had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (c)
Garda vetting was not available for one adult on the day of inspection and an immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider.

(2) (d)
International police vetting was available for six adults that had lived outside the country for a period of more than six consecutive months. However, there was no official translation for these police vetting therefore it could not be determined if disclosures had been made.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In a written response the registered provider stated:

(2) (c)
Immediate Action Notice was implemented as directed by Tusla and Admin staff member was not rostered until Garda Vetting documentation was received by the Service and forwarded to Tusla Inspector.

Garda Vetting documentation was received by Creche on 09/09/2024 and immediately forwarded to Tusla Inspector. Admin Staff member was not rostered to return to work until receipt of Garda Vetting documentation.

(2) (d)
The Provider has sourced an external Spanish Service to translate the relevant International Spanish Police documentation for our childcare setting. The Service will retain the services of the external Spanish Service to translate any future Spanish Police vetting documentation.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2) (c) Garda vetting document submitted.

(2) (d) No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation (2) (c) adequately address the non-compliance. Regulation (2) (d) remains outstanding, it was requested that it is submitted to the inspectorate once received and this will be reviewed on next inspection.

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) There were 11 adults working directly with 47 children on the inspectors' unannounced arrival to the service.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratios were provided on the morning of the unannounced inspection in accordance with the required ratios considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:

Pres-school 1 room: 3 adults cared for 14 children aged from 3 to 5 years of age.

Pre-school 2 room: 4 adults cared for 15 children aged from 3 to 5 years of age.

Toddler room: 2 adults cared for 5 children aged 2 to 3 years of age.

Pre-school 4 room: 2 adults cared for 11 children aged from 2.8 years to 5 years of age.

In the afternoon at 14.30 the adult child ratios were as follows:

Pre-school 2 room: 3 adults cared for 17 children aged from 3 to 5 years of age.

Toddler room: 2 adults cared for 4 children aged 2 to 3 years of age.

Pre-school 4 room: 1 adult cared for 5 children aged from 2.8 years to 5 years of age.

(8)

The registered provider ensured that there were at least two adults on the premises at all times when the service was in operation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (c) an authorised person.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

(1)
Ten records of the children attending the service were reviewed. The required information including the authorisation to collect the child, details of illness or special needs of the child, emergency contact and record of immunisations were fully completed for each child.

(3) (c)

The records in writing were available on the day of inspection for the early years inspector.

(4)

The person in charge confirmed that the records are retained for the required period as set out in the regulations.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1) (a)

Pre-school rooms 2 and Preschool room 4 were laid out with a variety of equipment and resources to stimulate a Childs imagination and promote choice. Opportunities for sensory play for the child through arts and crafts. Fine motor development was supported using jigsaws, pins and threading puzzles. Opportunities for imaginary and role play were provided in the home corner and dress up area as well as construction area and farm animal areas. All equipment was stored on open shelving at children's heights so that choice can be facilitated, and children could move around the rooms freely directing their own sense of play.

The outdoor play area provided an alternative change of environment for the children. The outdoor area provided two different outdoor areas with various resources including tunnels, tyres slide, swings ride on toys and bikes and trikes, mud kitchens and playhouses. A large grass area to the rear allowed for team games and football. These areas provided an opportunity for children to develop gross motor skills and develop their imagination. On the day the children had limited use of the outdoor space due to an increase in wasps. The Registered provider took appropriate measures to reduce any harm to the preschool children.

Staff members were observed in all rooms to be kind and respectful in their interactions with children. It was the beginning of a new term, and many children were in the process of starting in the service for the first time or transitioning to different rooms. Children were comforted if upset. The children appeared happy and content in the company of the adults that were supporting them. Staff members were observed to be supportive to parents when collecting their child from the service, communicating how the day went and how they settled into the service throughout the day.

(1) (b)

On the day a main meal of beef stew was provided by the service. All other snacks and meals were provided from home. Snacks on the day included a variety of fruit, crackers, pancakes, wraps, sandwiches, yoghurts, biscuits and buns. Drinking water was freely available throughout the day and stored on shelving easily accessible to children in all care rooms.

Nappy changing was observed to be an opportunity for positive engagement and interaction with the children, where staff used this time to chat and sing with the child. The older children who were toileting independently were prompted to do so and supervised from a distance.

The sleep needs of the younger children were met, this was observed on the day by children sleeping at various intervals throughout the day responsive to the sleep cues of the preschool children. One designated sleep room was in use in the service and cots were shared with individual bed linen stored in boxes.

Non-Compliance Information

(a)

The registered provider did not ensure that children's learning and development was facilitated on the day of inspection.

- In the Toddler room there was a limited range of equipment available to children. Toys were stored on high level shelving in the room not within the children's reach. This prevented the toys and play equipment from being accessed, limiting the opportunities of choice and play for the children. This was also a non-compliance on a previous inspection on the 1st of November 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In a written response the registered provider stated:

(a)

Low Level shelves have been provided and equipment placed on these shelves to facilitate the children choosing an activity. Trays and toys have been provided for sand and water play. Playdough has been provided for the children to help stimulate learning and development. New equipment/toys have been purchased.

Regular checks will be carried out on the range of equipment available to children at all times

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider adequately addressed the non-compliance found on inspection in relation to regulation 19 (a).

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 main entrance into the service was found to be secured upon the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service, which prevented persons entering unauthorised and children from leaving the building unsupervised.
- All cleaning products in the care rooms were stored on high level shelving out of the reach of children.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the preschool children.
- Leads and flexes were secure and inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The outdoor perimeter was secure with waste bins stored out of reach of children.
- The registered provider had identified a concern in the outdoor area and completed a risk assessment and implemented controls to alleviate the increase in wasps in the outdoor area. This included restricting the area and support from pest control.

Infection Control:

- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to mealtimes and after messy play and snack times in all care rooms.
- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean, with cleaning schedules displayed and up to date in each care room.

- Children were observed to wash their hands regularly including before snacks and meals.
- Child friendly hand wash posters with picture instructions were placed above the wash basins

Administration of Medication:

- The service had a medication administration policy in place and when interviewed staff were aware of their responsibilities for the safe administration of medication.

Safe Sleep:

- The service had a dedicated sleep room with three standard cots and two low level beds available for use by the preschool child.
- The sleep room temperature measured 18.7°C on the day of inspection which is line with the required safe sleep temperatures.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors remained unobstructed throughout the service allowing for safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Medical creams were stored in the fridge in the toddler room that was accessible to preschool children.
2. The radiator temperature control in the toddler room had no cover exposing a sharp spike which could pose injury if fallen against.
3. Perishable items were left out of the fridge on the counter in the toddler room, instead of the fridge provided.
4. Garda vetting was available for 18 staff members. However, one of these vetting disclosures was 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:

5. The waste bin in the toddler room had a broken pedal resulting in children and staff using their hands to open the lid of the bin posing a risk of contamination.
6. Aprons were not routinely worn when changing nappies in the toddler room.
7. There was no warm water throughout the building on the day of inspection for effective hand hygiene. On the day water temperature in sinks ranged from 16.8c° to 17.1c°.
8. A blind in the toddler room had evidence of mould.

9. The soap dispenser in the toddler room consisted of hand sanitiser and no liquid soap was available to the preschool children for effective hand hygiene.

Safe Sleep:

10. Sleep checks on the day were not carried out in line with policy every ten minutes on a review of sleep records, no information was recorded for one preschool child for two days.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider in a written response stated:

1. Medical Creams have been removed from the fridge and placed in the Medicine Cabinet in the Room. Staff are always reminded that medical creams are to be kept in the medicine cabinet at all times.
2. A Cover has been provided for the radiator in the room. The cover will be checked regularly.
3. Staff have been informed that all perishable items must be stored in the fridge. Checks will be carried out a daily basis to ensure that all perishable items are stored in the fridge
4. Administration staff member was not rostered until Garda Vetting documentation was received by the Service. All staff will be garda vetted before starting work in the service.

Infection Control:

5. The waste bin has been replaced. This will be checked regularly.
6. Staff reminded to use the aprons provided. This will be checked regularly.
7. Electrical fault identified and rectified by electrician. Water temperatures will be checked regularly.
8. The blind has been removed and wall repainted. Rooms will be checked regularly for any evidence of mould and peeling paint and dealt with appropriately.
9. Liquid soap has been provided for the soap dispensers. Soap dispensers will be regularly checked for liquid soap.

Safe Sleep:

10. Staff spoken to and reminded regarding the importance of carrying out the sleep checks in line with the Sleep log sheet and our sleep policy of every ten minutes. Sleep records will be checked daily to ensure that best practice is being adhered to

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence submitted.
2. Photographic evidence submitted.
3. Documentary evidence submitted.
4. Documentary evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

5. Photographic evidence submitted.
6. Documentary evidence submitted.
7. Documentary evidence submitted.
8. Photographic evidence submitted
9. Photographic evidence submitted

Safe Sleep:

10. Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider adequately addressed the non-compliance found on inspection and these will be checked 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)

On the day of inspection one staff member on duty was trained in first aider response (FAR) training and was available to children attending the preschool service.

(2) (a) (b).

Fully stocked first aid boxes are available in each of the care rooms and are available to 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) (b)

The service provided evidence of a log of all firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service with the most recent maintenance date of 31st of July 2024.

(4)

Fire evacuation notices are clearly displayed throughout the service in care rooms and hallways informing those in attendance of the nearest evacuation route.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The registered provider had informed the inspectors that fire drills had taken place however there was no evidence or log of same to demonstrate this. It is acknowledged the registered provider informed the inspectors that the records had been removed for filing and would be furnished after the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider in a written response stated:

The Service has written records of all fire drills that took place over the past twelve months. Every August these are filed in the Archives for the year. They have since been returned from the Archives and are kept on the premises. The Fire Drills for this year commenced on the 12th.September 2024. The Fire Records for the previous year will be kept on the Premises to facilitate any future inspections

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider adequately addressed the non-compliance found on inspection.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure a healthy alternative meal was available for preschool children when they chose not to eat the meal provided. On the day of inspection, a number of children in preschool 2 refused the meal offered to them. The service did not provide a healthy alternative. It is acknowledged that staff offered a snack from the children's lunch box however as per guidelines a healthy alternative of a main meal should be provided.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider in a written response stated:

All current menus have been reviewed and alternative hot options will now be provided to children who refuse to eat the main meal provided on the day.

Menus will continue to be regularly reviewed in consultation with parents.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider adequately addressed the non-compliance found on inspection.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

(d)

On the day of inspection, it was observed that the premises was not maintained and repaired as required as outlined below:

- In the corner ceiling of the Toddler room there was evidence of mould growth.
- Damaged and flaking paint was observed on the walls of the Toddler room.
- A ceiling tile in the Toddler room was swollen with evidence of water damage and dampness.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In the Toddler Room the maintenance issues identified by the Tusla Inspector have been dealt with by our Maintenance Personnel. Rooms will be checked regularly to identify any maintenance issues.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence attached

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider adequately addressed the non-compliance found on inspection.