

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO008
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Name of Service:	Cre8ive Corner Creche
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Address of Service:	Brooklawns, Sea Road, Sligo, Co. Sligo
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Eircode:	N/A
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Name of Registered Provider:	Michael Gillen
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	13/10/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	55	PM	42
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
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Inspection undertaken by:	S, Killeen L. Costello
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Cre8ive Corner Creche is a privately owned full day care service located in an urban setting in Sligo. The service is registered to cater for children from 0 to 6 years of age between the hours of 8.30am to 5:30pm. The premises is a two-storey building purpose built to provide childcare services. There are six playrooms in the service, two sleep rooms, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation, a staff room and an office. The children have access to outdoor play areas located to the rear and side of the building.

Staffing

There were twenty- two adults employed in the service including management, staff working directly with the preschool children and a chef.

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 9,11,15,16 h, l, j, k 20,23,26,27 and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 19 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 record of a preschool child, 16 h, l, j, k record in relation to a preschool service. As a result, the scope of the inspection included all six of the preschool rooms.

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 inspectors wish 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).

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise on the day of inspection.

(2) (a) (b).

The files of 23 adults employed in the service had been reviewed on the service last inspection on the 24th of April 2024 and found to be compliant. Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that two new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection is the focus of this review.

The following vetting information was available for two adults:

Three written and verified references from past employers were available for the two adults.

One reference from a reputable source was available for one adult

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for two staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was not required for the two adults as they had not lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months.

(4)
The two 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 Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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.

Compliance Information

1. There were 12 adults working directly with 55 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:
 - Wobbler- Rose playroom: 2 adults cared for 7 children aged 1 years of age.
 - Toddler 1- Daisy playroom: 1 adult cared for 4 children aged 2 years of age.
 - Toddler 2- Lily playroom: 2 adults cared for 7 children aged 2 years of age
 - Preschool 1 Sunflower: 3 adults cared for 14 children aged 3 years of age.
 - Preschool 3 Daffodil Playroom: 2 adults cared for 12 children aged from 2 years to 3 years of age.
 - Pre-school Blue Bell Playroom- 2 adults cared for 11 children ages from 2 years to 4 years of age.

In the afternoon the adult: child ratios were found to be as follows:

- Wobbler- Rose playroom: 2 adults cared for 8 children aged 1 years of age.
- Toddler 1- Daisy playroom: 2 adults cared for 4 children aged 2 years of age.
- Toddler 2- Lily playroom: 3 adults cared for 8 children aged 2 years of age
- Preschool 1 Sunflower: 2 adults cared for 13 children aged 3 years of age.

- Preschool 3 Daffodil Playroom: 2 adults cared for 9 children aged from 2 years to 3 years of age.
- Pre-school Blue Bell Playroom- Closed

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-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (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 (a)-(i)

A sample of twelve records of the children attending the service was reviewed. The required information for (a) to (i) was fully completed for each child.

(3) (c)

The Records in writing was available for inspection by the inspector.

(4)
The person in charge confirmed that the records are retained for the required period as set out by the regulations.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)
The Registered provider demonstrated a record was held in relation to,
(i) Staff rosters were available for review.
(j) Medication administration records were available which included the parental consent.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (h) On the day of the inspection, attendance was not adequately recorded in the wobbler room, as at 10:40 there were eight children present, but only five were signed in.

(1) (k)
A sample of accident and incidents records involving a pre-school child were reviewed for this regulation. The following information had been omitted from the forms.

- The signature of the parent was not present on one form.
- The manager’s signature was omitted from five of the forms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) All Staff have been informed to sign all children in as they come to creche.
(2) All Staff have been informed to make sure all accident report forms are signed by parents and managers.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Photographic evidence of children being signed into attendance book.
- (2) Evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

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-*

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(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.

(2) *A registered provider-*

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016,

shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1) (a)

- There were adequate and suitable play equipment and materials available on the premises for the number of children attending the service. All play items and equipment were observed to be well maintained, durable and suitable for the age and stage of development of the children attending.
- The three care rooms caring for older children contained a sufficient number of child sized tables and chairs for tabletop play and eating.
- Suitable seating was provided for younger children. Play items were arranged in a manner that was easily accessible to children on low level shelving. The rooms had distinct areas of interest including kitchen, construction, small world, doll and baby care areas.

- The area used by younger children aged 1 year was equipped with suitable soft toys, cause and effect items and equipment to support pre-walking crawling children. Areas with soft furnishings were available in each of the rooms for children to use when resting and reading.

(1) (b)

- There were two dedicated sleep rooms for the younger children consisting of eleven standard cots.
- Stackable floor beds were available for the older children if required.
- Rest areas in the form of soft couches and cushions were provided in all preschool rooms.

(2) (b)

- There were two outdoor play areas with a variety of age-appropriate outdoor equipment such as swings, slides climbing facilities.
- A tarmacked area to the front of the property allowed for gross motor skill development with an area for riding bikes and playing football.
- Areas to the side of the property contained a variety of climbing frames, play houses and mud kitchens to facilitate imaginative play.

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. A buzz entry system was provided allowing staff to control access preventing persons entering unauthorised and children from leaving the building unsupervised.
- Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.
- Leads and flexes were secure and inaccessible to the preschool children
- The staircase was fitted with a low-level handrail for children's use
- The outdoor area was secured with tall wooden fencing walls and bolted gates.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available within the service for safe disposal of waste.

- There was adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. Older children were observed to wash their hands with support, before snacks, meals.
- Aprons and gloves were available and observed in use by staff when changing of a child was required.
- The sanitary facilities were observed to be ventilated by openable windows.
- Child friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks. Handwashing was supervised by the adults to ensure all hands were cleaned effectively.

Administration of Medication:

- On discussion with staff members, they were knowledgeable about the medication management policy within the service.

Safe Sleep:

- The service had two designated sleep room with appropriate cots available to children.
- Sleep checks were observed to occur every ten minutes.
- Standard cots were available for babies under two years of age.
- Stackable floor beds were available for children over two years of age.
- All standard cots had the required waterproof coverings and cellular blankets were provided.

Fire Safety:

- The fire assembly point was clearly displayed in the car park of the service.
- Fire evacuation notices were displayed on the walls of the care rooms.
- Emergency evacuation doors were clear of obstruction on the day of the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. On the day of the inspection, chemicals were observed stored on the fire alert panel in the main entrance hall and were not locked away, posing a potential risk to children's safety.
2. Whole grapes were observed in the preschool room without being cut, posing a potential choking hazard. It is acknowledged that when the inspector brought this to the attention of the staff members the grapes were cut.
3. Low level visibility strips were not present in the glass doors in the wobbler room posing a safety risk for the young preschool children.
4. A wooden kitchen in the wobbler outdoor area with a broken door, was posing as a risk to children.

5. In the outdoor area of the wobbler room there was a broken part of the gate and there was exposed sharp edges and posing a risk of injury to the preschool child.
6. In the rest area of preschool one soft furnishings were ripped with exposed foam which if ingested could injure the preschool child.

Infection Control:

7. Hand hygiene was not completed for children after nappy changing, which could lead to cross-contamination.
8. The wooden tables in the preschool room were observed to be worn and in poor condition, making them unsuitable for effective cleaning.

Administration of Medication:

9. No evidence of parents being informed of administration of prescribed medication which may lead to overdose.
10. Medical risk assessment had instructions indicating that a care plan should be in place. However, staff were unable to locate the care plan when requested. While it is acknowledged that the staff member present was aware of the steps to be taken should the emergency medication be required. This could pose a risk with unfamiliar staff.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- (1) This is flower food that staff use for the flowers outside it was just purchased and not open. Going forward the flower food will be always stored away in our storage area. All staff have been reminded of the need to store such item in a proper place. All staff have been reminded of the need to store such item in a proper place.
- (2) Each child's lunch box is checked before they have them. Another letter has been sent out to parents again about cutting their fruit.
- (3) We have added child friendly stickers to our windows in the wobbler room. Always keep stickers on the window.
- (4) We have removed the kitchen on the day of inspection. We will monitor all outdoor play equipment on weekly bases.
- (5) I had mentioned on the day of inspection that we are in the middle of getting new fence in this area. we have got new fence done. Gate and fence have been replaced.

(6) On day of inspection, I have removed the cushion that was ripped. Weekly check list on soft toys & cushions.

(7) Infection Control:

(8) All staff have been informed that children's hands must be washed after they get their nappy changed. I have put a post up beside each changing unit to remind the staff. A post has been put up at each changing unit to remind the staff to wash the children's hands after every nappy change.

(9) I have ordered new tables for preschool we have removed the wooden table, to stop this from reoccurring in the future we will do monthly check on all table and chairs in the rooms.

Administration of Medication:

(10) All parents are informed about medication they provide for their child. We fill out medication forms these are signed by parents. We were asked to get each dose of the medication signed on the form. All staff have been informed that each dose of medication must be signed individually by the parents. These will be checked by managers.

(11) A care plan for the child has been got off the child's parents. We will always have the care plan on the wall do the child and all staff have been briefed on this.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- (1) Photographic evidence of locked kitchen for storage of hazardous substances
- (2) Photographic evidence of letter sent to parents about ensuring grapes are cut.
- (3) No evidence submitted as kitchen was removed on the day of inspection.
- (4) Photographic evidence of visibility strips.
- (5) Photographic evidence of new gate in the play area
- (6) No evidence submitted as cushions were removed on day of inspection,

Infection Control:

- (7) Photographic evidence of sign for staff to ensure that children's hand are washed.
- (8) Photographic evidence of new child size tables

Administration of Medication:

- (9) Photographic evidence of new medication sin off sheets.
- (10) Copy of care plan submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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) (b)

A procedure was in place to practice and record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill completed was dated on the 25th of September 2025. The service demonstrated that annual maintenance of the fire detection and smoke alarms occur, with the most recent maintenance check of the 28th of August 2025.

(2) (C)

These records were made available to the authorised person on the day of inspection.

(3)

The Registered provider is aware of the requirement to maintain these records for a period of five years.

(4)

Emergency evacuation procedures were clearly displayed across the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

- During the inspection, staff were observed to be strategically positioned throughout the indoor environment, facilitating continuous visual and auditory supervision. This enabled purposeful engagement with the children while remaining responsive to their individual needs.
- During mealtimes, staff were seated in close proximity to the children, providing appropriate support and supervision, and promoting a calm, inclusive, and socially enriching atmosphere.
- Transitions from indoor to outdoor areas, as well as movement up and down stairs, were managed effectively.
- The outdoor play area was arranged to allow staff to maintain clear lines of sight and sound, thereby ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children while outdoors.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service demonstrated adequate insurance with a certificate for 85 preschool children availing of a full day care service up until the 27th of March 2026.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not demonstrate the premises are cleaned, maintained and repaired as follows:

- (1) Preschool Room 2 and 3 had evidence of flaking paint on the walls and woodwork of the care room and required repainting.
- (2) The taps in the sanitary accommodation of preschools 1, 2 and 3 were corroded with evidence of a rust like substance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) We have touched up all flaking paint. We will do checks on each room to see if the rooms need topping up.
- (2) All taps have been replaced with new taps Check taps on monthly basis.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Photographic evidence of rooms painted,
- (2) Photographic evidence of new taps submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.

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
- (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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (a)

- The individual sleep needs of children in the wobbler room aged 1 year old were not met. One child was notably tired at 10.00am and were observed to wait up to until after dinner at 12.02 before being placed to sleep. The child was observed rubbing their eyes, crying and disengaging from play activities and unable to eat their dinner. The structure and routine of the day in this room indicated that children ate their dinner prior to being placed to sleep. This process did not allow for children to be placed to sleep when they were tired and in need of rest.
- On the day of the inspection, the privacy and dignity of children were not respected. At 2:00 PM, a child's nappy was being changed in the bathroom while six other preschool children were present.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) The child on the day in wobblers was settling in. The child's parents had known the child was upset and had requested the child have sleep at 12 as it is what she has as routine at home. All children have opportunity to sleep when they want which was observed on the day in toddlers. When parents ask about doing their routine, we do explain that we have to let the children sleep as they need.
- (2) To keep ratios the staff used to split the number of children between two staff to change nappies. We will now use the door so staff will bring one child at a time to changing unit to keep the child's privacy. I have briefed all staff that they can use the sliding door in toddlers for changing nappies.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) No evidence submitted.
- (2) No evidence submitted.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now compliant.