

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015TY092
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Annacarthly Childcare Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Shannonknock, Annacarty, Co Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E34 PY61
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Grainne Morrissey
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	23/01/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, E91RF38
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Antoinette McNamara
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Annacarty Childcare Ltd is a community based early years service established in 2008 in the village of Annacarty Co Tipperary. The service offers full day care from 7.30am to 6.15pm, 51 weeks per year, for children aged 2 to 6 years. A sessional preschool service is also offered 38 weeks of the year. A school aged childcare service is provided for children aged 4-15 years.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. There are eight staff employed in the service, seven staff work directly with the children. All staff working with children hold recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at level 5 and above on the national framework of qualifications.

### 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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) Records in relation to a pre-school child,

Regulation 21 Equipment and materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,

Regulation 25 First aid,

Regulation 26 Fire safety and

Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 registered provider, 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) The registered provider had assigned a manager to oversee the operation of the childcare facility. There was a named deputy in place.

(b) The person in charge was present when the unannounced inspection commenced and facilitated the inspection process.

(2) Recruitment records in respect of the eight adults whose files had not been assessed previously were reviewed and the following information was obtained:

(a) 13 of the 16 required written and validated references were from past employers.

(b) There were 3 written and validated references from sources other than previous employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the eight staff, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable. Review of the curricula vitae indicated that police vetting was not required.

(4) The adults employed to work directly with children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education and copies of the corresponding certificates were available.

### 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) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children.

(2) The person in charge ensured that the adult to child ratio was maintained on the day of inspection. The service exceeded the minimum child to adult ratio required under regulation.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

A sample of completed registration forms were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

- (1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

### Compliance Information

The indoor environment was warm, bright and well ventilated. Music played in the background. A variety of defined areas of interest were provided for the children to play with. These included a kitchen and role play area, dress up area, book corner and craft area. Low-level shelving provided children with access to a wide selection of activities, and a range of other age-appropriate toys which were inviting and stimulating for children. Adequate space was available for children to engage in both floor and table play independently and in groups. The room was laid out with appropriately sized furniture and a large range of developmentally appropriate equipment and materials which were well organised. The children's arts and crafts decorated the walls. There were trays which were used for mess and water play also available to the children.

The service has a large secure outdoor area. This can be accessed directly from the classroom. Part of the outdoor area consisted of a soft fall surface. Children had a range of materials to play with, including tyres and ride on toys. There was also a large, grassed area that the children could access.

## 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 premises was adequately secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining access. The entrance door was magnetically locked and had to be opened by a staff member. Children entered the service one at a time. A roll call was also taken in the classroom by a staff member. Visitors to the service were required to sign the visitors book on arrival to the premises. The outdoors areas were fully enclosed.

##### Infection control:

The service was clean and well maintained. On arrival to the service the children washed their hands. There was soap and paper towels available to the children for hand washing. There were designated children's toilets available off the classroom.

## 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) There were staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

### 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.

#### Compliance Information

- (1)(a) There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2024.
- (b) There was a record available demonstrating that the smoke alarm system and the firefighting equipment was last serviced July 2024.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An in-date certificate was in place to demonstrate that the service was insured to provide full day care for the number of children the service is registered to accommodate.