

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY103
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Name of Service:	Knockanrawley Childcare
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Address of Service:	Knockanrawley Resource Centre, Knockanrawley, Tipperary Town, Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E34 D832
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Name of Registered Provider:	Noreen Meagher
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	30/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	43
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara & Lisa McGeeney
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	N/A
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Description of service

Knockanrawley Childcare is a community early years service which was established in 1993. The service is based at Knockanrawley Family Resource Centre in Tipperary Town. The service offers full day care, part time and sessional care to children aged 1 to 6 years. The service operates 08:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday. The Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) is offered by the service 38 weeks of the year from 09:00 to 12:00 for eligible children. The service consists of four childcare rooms, two sensory/relaxation rooms for children, two staff offices, a school age room, two sluice rooms, two sleep rooms, a kitchen, a staff relaxation room, two nappy changing rooms and sanitary accommodation. The service also has several secure designated outdoor areas and access to a community garden. School age care is also provided.

Staffing

There are 27 staff members employed in the service this includes early years staff, community employment (CE), a chef and administration staff. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. All staff members employed in the service to work directly with the children held at least a major award in early childhood care and education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or were in the process of completing their childcare qualification under the community employment scheme.

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 16 (1) (h, i, j, k) (3) Record in relation to pre-school service,
Regulation 21 Equipment and materials,
Regulation 22 Food and drink,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,
Regulation 25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First aid
Regulation 31 Notification if incidents

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 deputy 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named deputy who was able to deputise, as required.

(b) A person in charge was present on the day of inspection. A person in charge was present daily.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the deputy person in charge it was determined that six new staff members including three community employment workers (CE) had been employed since the previous inspection. A total of six files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for all staff members and the registered provider.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for each person working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff members and the registered provider. In the case of one staff member, 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) Police vetting documentation was available for four new staff working in the service, who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working with pre-school children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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) On the day of the inspection, the staff to child ratios were maintained as follows throughout the service:

Morning:

- In the toddler room there were four children being cared for by two staff.
- In the playgroup room there were 13 children being cared for by 3 staff.
- In the preschool room one there were 11 children being cared for by 2 staff.
- In the preschool room two there were 15 children being directly cared for by 3 staff.

Afternoon:

- In the toddler room there were four children being cared for by two staff.
- In the playgroup room there were 13 children being cared for by 3 staff.
- In the preschool room one there were 11 children being cared for by 2 staff.
- In the preschool room two there were 15 children being directly cares for by 3 staff.

There were also four community employment (CE) workers, one in each room, present to provide additional support when needed such as at mealtimes. There was also a member of staff available as a 'float' to work in each room when required to cover staff breaks or any staff absences from the room.

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.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Detailed daily attendance of each child was available.
 - (i) A detailed staff roster was available.
 - (j) Medication administration records were sampled and were found to meet the necessary requirements. Written parental consent for staff to administer medication had also been obtained.
 - (k) A total of 15 accident and incident records were sampled and deemed satisfactory.
- (3) The written records were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

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 service consisted of four large pre-school rooms along with an entrance hall, two break out rooms and sanitary accommodation for the children. The service was decorated for the Spring and Easter seasons. The children’s artwork decorated the walls of the classrooms. The classroom walls were also decorated with photos of the children, an interest wall, different colours, days of the week, months of the year, the weather and seasons. The service was equipped with suitable furniture and materials in adequate quantities for the number of children attending, and their stages of development. Furniture included child height tables for dining and table-top activities. There were also vinyl child size couches present in the rooms. There were different areas of interest provided for the children to play with such as arts and crafts materials, construction toys, puzzles, manipulative play materials, small world toys and books. These areas were well developed with a wide range of materials. Open shelving units that were accessible to the children were available and used for toy display and storage in each room. Furniture designed for imaginative play, such as play kitchens and doll houses, was available. Children’s identity and belonging was fostered through a birthday wall, family wall and a display of flags and languages from different countries.

The service had access to several secure outdoor areas. Three of the classrooms had direct access to the outdoors. There were three covered areas available which allowed for outdoor play throughout the year. The children had a wide variety of toys and equipment outside including a playhouse, messy play area, benches and mud kitchens. In the large uncovered outdoor area, there was a large grass area with several different areas set up with different sized tyres for climbing. The children had access to a community garden and an insect hotel.

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.

Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy. The service provided a midday meal for the children who attended the service. The morning and evening snacks were provided by the parents, except for children in the ECCE scheme who had access to the Bia Blasta lunch scheme. The service had a three-week rolling menu for the meals provided through Bia Blasta, which was developed with the assistance of a nutritionist. The snack served by the service on the day of inspection consisted of a choice of cereal, milk and apples. The snacks provided by the parents consisted of cheese, berries, sandwiches, yogurts, fromage frais, hard-boiled eggs, raisins, crackers and fruit. Water was available as a drink. Staff presented the children's lunches to them on individual plates. There was a separate three-week rolling menu for the hot meals served in the middle of the day. On the day of inspection, the midday meal consisted of meatballs, pasta, cheese, broccoli and peas followed by a fruit dish. Staff were aware that some of the children had food intolerances or diet restrictions, as was noted during discussion. Children were given ample time to eat their meals. In the classrooms information was displayed in writing so that staff could easily see the children's dietary requirements. Children had access to their water bottles/beakers and were able to get a drink throughout the day. Perishable foods were stored in fridges available throughout the service. Staff sat with the children during snack time to supervise them, encourage conversation and to help if needed, for example pouring or opening yogurt.

Birthdays were celebrated with a shop-bought, nut-free cake supplied by parents, with guidance given by the service.

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 door to the service was fitting with a call bell system. Staff had to allow entry to the service. The outdoor play areas were secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area. The kitchen area was inaccessible to children and situated away from the classrooms. Pinch guards covered the hinges on all doors to prevent injury to children. All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to children. The stairs were closed off with a door and was only accessible with a pin code therefore children could not access the stairs. The steel supports in the outdoor area were covered in a vinyl foam to prevent injury to the children.

Infection control:

The service was clean and well maintained. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. Sinks were available for staff in the classrooms. There were designated children's toilets available to the children directly off the classrooms. Designated staff toilets were also provided. Handwashing reminders and steps were present in the sanitary accommodation. Children were supported to wash their hands at appropriate times during the day such as after using the toilet and before eating. A tissue station was available to the children in the classroom. Pedal bins were in operation to avoid cross contamination. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge. Staff who were involved in food preparation wore gloves, aprons and hair nets. Nappy changing areas were clean and had natural ventilation. There were aprons and gloves available to staff along with hand washing facilities for both staff and children in the nappy changing areas. Each child had a designated cot. Mattresses on the cots were waterproof and wipeable. Cots and low-level beds were spaced the required 50cm apart, there was a system in place to launder bed linen as required.

Administration of medication:

The service had a medication policy. Records for recording of medication were available in each room. Records reviewed indicated that staff were following the policy, records were correctly maintained, dated, signed and witnessed by staff and signed by parents. Individual care plans were in place for children and staff who required administration of medication.

Safe sleep:

There were two designated sleep rooms. Staff were familiar with best practices in safe sleep and carried out physical checks on individual sleeping children, every 10 minutes, recording individual children's sleep positions, colour and breathing. There were thermometers present in the sleep room to ensure a safe temperature between 18°C and 22°C for the children.

Fire safety:

Fire exits were found to be unobstructed on the day of inspection.
There were fire evacuation procedures displayed in a prominent area within the service.
Firefighting equipment was present in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

Garda vetting disclosures for one staff member was not dated within the previous three years 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:

Garda vetting renewal for one staff member had been applied for prior to inspection. Copy of application was observed by the Early Years Inspector.

Supporting documentation submitted

General safety:

A copy of the new in date Garda vetting was sent to the Early Years Inspector.

Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 Response (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

(a) the death of a pre-school child while attending the service, including the death of a child in hospital following his or her transfer to hospital from the service;

(b) the diagnosis of a pre-school child attending the service, an employee, unpaid worker, contractor or other person working in the service as suffering from an infectious disease within the meaning of the Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981 (S.I. No. 390 of 1981);

(c) an incident that occurs in the service and that results in the service being closed for any length of time;

(d) a serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner whether in a hospital or otherwise;

(e) an incident in respect of which a pre-school child attending the service goes missing while attending the service.

Compliance Information

There was evidence that the service adhered to the requirements of this Regulation. In the event that the service was required to submit a notification of incident in line with this regulation, the NOI was submitted within three working days.