

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WW161		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kangakare Childcare Ltd		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Woodlands, Lamberton, Arklow, Co. Wicklow		
<b>Eircode:</b>	Y14 CX34		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ann Ronan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/07/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	55	PM 53
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Dive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M. Condon & O. Quill.		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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>	Not applicable		

### Description of service

This full day care service is in a residential area in Arklow town. The service provides full day-care, part-time day care and a sessional service to pre-school children aged between 0-6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07.00am and 18.00pm. A school age service is provided. The premises is located in a detached two storey purpose-built centre with six care rooms, one of which was closed on the day of inspection.

### Staffing

A total of twenty-four adults are employed to care for the pre-school children. On the day of inspection sixteen adults provided direct care to the pre-school children. One adult was employed as a chef. The person in charge and the deputy person-in-charge were present and available to give assistance in the rooms as needed.

### 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 and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16-Record in Relation to the Pre-school service and 27-Supervision. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Baby room, Fledgelings room, Pre-school room and Playschool 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.

## 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 person to deputise as required.

(b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2) Twenty-four staff files were reviewed.

(a) & (b) Forty-eight written and verified references were available for twenty-four adults in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults employed.

(d) Police vetting was available for four adults who had lived outside the state for more than six months as an adult.

(3) Evidence reviewed confirmed that Garda vetting disclosures were in place prior to an adult commencing work in the service.

(4) All staff qualifications were reviewed. Seventeen adults employed giving direct care to the pre-school children working directly with pre-school children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at on the National Qualifications Framework. Seven adults had letters of eligibility deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### Non-Compliance Information

(3) It was evident from the records that two adults had been employed in the service prior to their Garda vetting disclosure being returned. One staff member was employed in the service on 08/04/2022 and her Garda vetting was received on 20/04/2022. A second staff member was employed in the service on 08/07/2022 and her Garda vetting was received on 26/07/2022.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective Action and Preventive Action

Staff induction training will not commence until disclosure is issued to service.

### Summary Comment

The Registered Provider has addressed the non-compliance in relation to Regulation 9(3).

## 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 sixteen adults working directly with fifty-five children attending the pre-school service. This included the person-in-charge and her deputy.

(2)  
The minimum ratio of adult to children was maintained at all times. The person in charge and her deputy were available to provide support to the pre-school rooms when needed during the day.

(8)(a)  
There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection.

## 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)
- (h) The details of each child's time of arrival and departure was kept.
- (i) The staff roster was available and included the names of the staff present on the day of inspection and their hours of work.
- (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child. The details of medication given to children were recorded with all details completed and signed by two staff members and parent.
- (k) Written details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service were available. This was signed by the staff member, manager and the parent of the child.

## 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:

- Entry to the service was safely secured by a bell system preventing unauthorised access and children leaving the service unsupervised.
- The kitchen and storage areas were inaccessible.
- All toys and play equipment were safe for the age group using them and in good condition.
- Cleaning agents were kept out of reach of children.

##### Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were available.
- Liquid soap, paper towel and pedal operated bins were provided to facilitate hand hygiene. Children were supervised washing their hands after using the toilet, outdoor play and prior to eating.
- Children's soothers were sterilised as required and stored in labelled individual containers.
- Individual linen was provided for children's cots and sleep beds. Staff confirmed it is laundered weekly or as required.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Staff were familiar with the safe-sleep guidelines when questioned. Sleeping children were checked by staff every 10 minutes and a record of all checks was maintained.
- Standard cots were used for children under two years of age when sleeping.
- An adult remained in the room at all times where children were sleeping on low beds.
- The temperature of the sleep room was maintained between 16 and 20 degrees Celsius.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed.

##### Outing:

- A comprehensive Outings Policy was available. A specific risk assessment was completed and available for an outing which was to take place the day after the inspection.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. The emergency treatment for one child in the service who had a specific medical condition requiring emergency medication could be delayed due to the following:
  - There was no care plan available in the room.
  - When questioned staff members caring for the child in the room did not know the steps which would be required in the event of an emergency or how to recognise if the child required treatment.
  - The care plan, which was available in the office, did not include the symptoms/signs and how to recognise if the child needed emergency treatment.
2. A trailing flex, from a music box located on a high shelf in the Pre-school room, was within reach of a child posing a risk of injury if a child pulled this down on themselves.

### Infection Control:

3. The procedure used during nappy changing was inadequate. Staff members did not dispose of soiled gloves prior to putting on a clean nappy and dressing the child. On review of the nappy changing procedure of the service, it was noted that this point was not included.
4. The bin for the disposal of nappies in the Baby/Fledglings sanitary area was faulty causing staff members to have to handle the bin lid, posing a risk of cross infection.
5. It was noted that the mechanical vent in the sanitary area in the Pre-school room was blocked with dust, causing a stale odour to be present.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### General Safety:

1.

#### Corrective Action:

All staff have now been trained in the event of having to administer medical treatment. Please see attached a step-by-step visual aid and step by step information sheet displayed in the classroom for all staff working. A completed care plan has been returned to us, a copy of which is on the child's file and also available in the classroom. All staff have been informed.

### **Preventive Action:**

Ensure parents complete care plans in detail, giving full instructions prior to the child returning to our service and where additional supports are required. This will allow sufficient time for staff training and practices to be put into place.

2.

### **Corrective Action:**

Trailing flex-night light has been moved to the countertop where flex will not trail.

### **Preventive Action**

Advise staff of the risk of trailing flexes and continue to assess risks.

### **Infection Control:**

3.

### **Corrective Action:**

Nappy change policy was corrected to include a secondary set of gloves to be used mid-way through the changing process.

### **Preventive Action:**

Staff received training post inspection on the 19/07/2023 on the change of the nappy change policy, whereby they change to a fresh pair of gloves once the cleaning process is complete and prior to applying a clean nappy / cream etc.

4.

### **Corrective Action:**

The bin has been replaced.

5.

### **Corrective Action:**

Vent in preschool changing / toilet facilities has been hoovered and is in working order.

### **Preventive Action:**

The vent will be hoovered more often to reduce odour.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

### **General Safety:**

Copy of visual aid and information sheet available in the classroom regarding the use of the prescribed emergency medication. Copy of care plan available for the child.

Photographic evidence of change of location of the night light.

### **Infection Control:**

Copy of updated nappy changing policy.

Photographic evidence of the new bin in place in the sanitary area.

Photographic evidence of cleaned vent.

## **Summary Comment**

The actions taken and the evidence received have been reviewed by the inspector. The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23.

## 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)  
Six adults employed had completed First Aid Responder training. On the day of inspection four staff members were present who had completed this training and therefore were immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)(a)(b)

The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position in the service and immediately available 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)(a)

A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 08/06/2023.

(b)

A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was last serviced in August 2022 and April 2023 respectively.

(4)  
Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the entrance hallway and in all rooms of 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

At all times during the inspection the pre-school children were supervised.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

There is evidence of current insurance cover valid until 28th of February 2024. The insurance provides cover for up to 107 children attending for full day care.