

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX034			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Craanford/Monaseed Community Childcare Services Ltd.			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	C/o Community Centre, Craanford, Gorey, Co. Wexford			
<b>Eircode:</b>	Y25 F990			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Eve Byrne			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/02/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	35	PM	10
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank Wexford.			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector			

### 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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Craanford/Monaseed Community Childcare is a community based preschool service and is managed by a voluntary committee. The service is registered to provide sessional, part time and full day care to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age between 8am and 2pm Monday to Friday. As well as offering a preschool service, an after-school service is available to school aged children. The service is located within the community centre with designated rooms for the sole purpose of the preschool service. The service consists of two playrooms, sanitary accommodation, including wheelchair accessible toilets, entrance hall, office, an indoor play hall and outdoor play area.

### Staffing

The service employs eight staff to work with the preschool children attending the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. The childcare manager is the designated person in charge and assists across the rooms as needed. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education. The service employs two staff to work with the school aged 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:

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,  
Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,  
Regulation 19 (a) Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child,  
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 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)(b)

On the day of the inspection there was a designated person in charge of the service. The childcare manager was the designated person in charge and remained on premises for the remainder of the inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

The staff files for eight staff working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(a)(b)

Validated references for all employees were kept in each staff members file.

- (c)  
Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service.
- (d)  
Police vetting disclosures were not required as none of the staff had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.
- (4)  
Certificates of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the preschool children were available on file.

## 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)(2)  
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service. During the morning sessional service there were 35 children being directly cared for by 6 staff. At 12.30pm there were 10 children in the care of 2 staff.

### 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*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection:

The service consisted of two rooms. Both rooms were well resourced to meet the needs of the children. The rooms were warm, bright and well laid out. Interest areas were well resourced and equipped. Both rooms had home corners, dress up clothes, art station, a dressing table, construction area, books, open shelves with boxes of bricks, small world and fine motor toys.

Children enjoyed free play during the morning, choosing what they wished to play with from the open shelves, before engaging in organised activities. During the morning, children enjoyed making pancakes, with staff allowing the children to pick their own toppings. After making pancakes children enjoyed circle time and had their morning snacks. The staff prompted children between activities and helped tidy up together. Children who were toilet trained were observed to use the toilet independently with staff supervising children who needed help.

Parents supplied the mid-morning and lunchtime snacks which were stored in the fridge. The snack time was relaxed and unhurried in both rooms. Staff supervised the children with handwashing before eating and sat with them to help as needed.

Staff engaged in play with the children in small groups and also one to one. Children from both rooms enjoyed time in the outdoor area. The outdoor area provided a variety of toys and equipment for the children to freely play and enjoy. There was a sandpit, water play, ride on toys, a slide, play house, and the area was covered. Parents were given time to talk with the staff at collection time about their children's day.

### 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 entrance to the premises was secured with an electronic keypad system. Visitors to the service were required to sign the visitors book on arrival and exit to the premises. The outdoor play area was fully enclosed. Low level handrails were in place on the stairs.

##### Infection Control:

The playrooms were clean and well maintained. There was warm water, liquid hand soap and hand towels available in the toilets. Regular handwashing took place during the morning.

##### Administration of Medication:

There were no children in attendance requiring administration of medication. The staff were aware of the procedure to follow when a child required medication while attending the service.

### 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 for children available to the children attending the preschool 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 firefighting 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)

Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 26 January 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in October and November 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.