

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX131
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Name of Service:	Tir na nOg Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	Station Road, Rosslare Harbour, Wexford.
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Eircode:	Y35 NX80
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Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Doyle
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	12/04/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM	19
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital Ferrybank Wexford
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Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Tir na nOg Childcare Centre is a privately operated service which opened in 1994. The service is located in Rosslare Harbour in Wexford. The service offers a full day care service to children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates from a residential house and consists of three playrooms, a sleep room, kitchen and an office. An outdoor garden area was available which was fully secured.

Staffing

There were five staff present on the day of inspection. The registered provider is the designated person in charge and works directly with the children attending the service. All the staff working in the service held the minimum level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 30.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 10, 11, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 30. As a result, the scope of the inspection was concluded in the two of the early years 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 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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)(2)(3)(4)

The registered provider stated that there has been no change to the staff employed in the service since the last inspection on 2 December 2020. The files for staff members reviewed on the previous inspection were fully compliant, and therefore were not reviewed on this inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The policies, procedures and statements as specified in Schedule 5 of the CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) REGULATIONS were available for inspection. For the purpose of this inspection the following policies were reviewed, and found adequate and specific to the service:

- Policy on infection control and handwashing
- Policy on nappy changing.
- Policy on accidents and incidents.
- Policy on healthy eating
- Policy on complaints
- Policy on behaviour management
- Policy on fire safety

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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

Compliance Information

(1)(2)

There was an adequate number of staff working with the children for the duration of the inspection.

(3)(4)

Day 1:

During the morning, there were 27 children being directly cared for by 6 staff.

During the afternoon, there were 19 children being directly cared for by 6 staff.

Day 2:

During the morning, there were 43 children being directly cared for by 8 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 focusing on the area of supporting relationships on the day of inspection:

Children in the big Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) room were confident and chatty. They helped the staff to give out their lunches, washed their hands before eating and sang songs at the table before they started to eat. The staff helped the children with their lunches, with plenty of chatting and asking what they wanted to do after snack time. The children were engaged in a variety of activities during the day including board games, reading stories, musical chairs and outdoor play.

Children in the toddler room enjoyed free play during the morning. Children's sleep needs were led by the children, with staff observed to place children to sleep when they showed signs of tiredness. The staff chatted and interacted with the children during the day, with the children enjoying doing tabletop crafts in the afternoon.

The staff talked with parents at drop off and collection times and used a digital application to provide daily updates and send photographs.

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:

Access to the service was appropriately secured by an electronic keypad system to restrict entry to unauthorised persons. Cleaning products were stored away and inaccessible to children. The outdoor play area was fully enclosed to the side and front of the premises.

Infection Control:

There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. The windows in the playroom and toilets were openable to provide natural ventilation. Cleaning schedules were available to view. Staff advised that mouthing toys were cleaned and sterilised daily.

Administration of Medication:

There was an administration of medication policy. The staff discussed with the inspector the procedure to follow when a child required administration of medication. Medications were supplied by parents and stored securely in a designated area inaccessible to children.

Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with best practices in safe sleep and were observed to carry out physical checks on individual sleeping children, every 10 minutes, recording individual children's sleep positions, colour and breathing. The sleep room temperature was monitored by the staff using a digital thermometer to ensure the temperature was maintained between the recommended temperature of 16-20°C as per safe sleep guidelines.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

Nappy changing practices observed on the day were not in line with the service's nappy changing policy. The following was observed:

1. A staff member did not wear aprons while carrying out nappy changes.
2. A staff member did not wash their hands between nappy changes.
3. The nappy changing mat was not cleaned between children.
4. Children's hands were not routinely washed after nappy changing.

Infection control practices observed were not in line with the service's policy. The following was observed:

1. Attention to children's personal hygiene was poor, with children's hands and faces not cleaned after eating.
2. A staff member did not replace cutlery, that a child dropped on the floor while eating, with a clean spoon.
3. A number of cot mattresses were stained, did not have waterproof covers and required replacing.
4. Buggies were stored in the nappy changing room which posed as risk of cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action:

1. The infection control policy was reviewed by all staff. The nappy changing procedure was revised by all staff.
2. Cutlery has been washed in the wobbler room.
3. The mattress covers were replaced.
4. Buggies have been removed.
- 5.

Preventative Action:

The procedures will be monitored by the manager.

Evidence submitted:

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The response submitted by the registered provider meets the requirements of the 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 available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises 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 within the service. Records reviewed on inspection confirmed that the last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on 16 March 2023.

(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment was serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in July 2022.

(4)

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

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

(4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both,

the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

Compliance Information

(1)

There was sufficient space in the toddler room for the number of children present on the day of inspection.

(2)(4)

The toddler room was measured at 30.85 m² and had space for 12 children aged 1 to 3 years of age attending for part-time or full day care. The log cabin was measured at 21.8 m² and had space for 11 children aged 3 to 5 years of age attending the service for a sessional service and 9 part-time or full day care. The big ECCE room was measured at 34.83 m² and had space for 19 children aged 3 to 5 years of age attending for a sessional service and 15 children attending for part-time or full day care.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

There was insufficient space available in the ECCE room for the number of children attending during the morning on day 1 of inspection.

There was insufficient space available in the log cabin for the number of children attending during the morning on day 2 of inspection.

Rooms:	Ages:	Space measurements:	Space Required:	Space available:
ECCE Room AM Day 1	3-6 years x 16	2.3 m ²	36.8 m²	34.83 m ²
Log Cabin AM Day 2	3-6 years x 13	1.81 m ²	23.53 m²	21.8 m ²

The children's attendance books were reviewed on the day of inspection and the following was noted:

- The ECCE room 2 has sufficient space for 19 children attending on a sessional basis and 15 on a full-time basis. However, the attendance records reviewed over a 2-week period demonstrated that on numerous dates, there was in excess of 19 children attending for a sessional service.
- The log cabin has sufficient space for 11 children attending on a sessional basis and 9 children on a full-time basis. However, the attendance records reviewed over a 2-week period demonstrated that on numerous dates, there was in excess of 11 children attending for a sessional service.

The staff confirmed that the attendance books were maintained daily by staff.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action:

The management will closely monitor the ages of the children to ensure there is sufficient space within the rooms.

Preventative Action:

The manager has engaged with an architect to look at a longer-term plan to look at increasing the room sizes.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

Evidence submitted:

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The response submitted by the registered provider meets the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.