

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016CC031
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kangakare Childcare Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 1B The Square, Mount Oval Village, Rochestown, Cork, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T12 V20C
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Deirdre Ronan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/11/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	36	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D Prendergast
<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>	N/A
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### Description of service

Kangakare Childcare Ltd is a privately owned sessional service, that is registered to accommodate children aged two to six years. Two daily sessional services are provided, in conjunction with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme; the first from 9.00am to 12.00pm and the second, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. A registered school age service also operates from the setting.

The service is provided from the ground floor of a two-storey building, which is situated in a business square, in Rochestown, in Co. Cork. There are two operational care rooms available, along with child and staff sanitary facilities and an office. The children who attend have access to the outdoor play area that adjoins the registered provider's adjacent childcare facility. This is located a short walking distance from the premises.

### Staffing

Seven adults are attached to Kangakare Childcare Ltd, including the registered provider who is not involved in the direct care of the children. Each of the six adults who work directly with the early years children, either holds a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education, or a Letter of Eligibility to Practice.

### 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 9 - Management and recruitment, 11 - Staffing levels, 19 - Health, welfare and development of child, 22 – Food and drink, 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child, 25 First aid and 26 – Fire safety; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances This finding is outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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 II - Registration and Register

#### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider had not notified the Agency in relation to the change of the named person in charge of the service. The inspector was advised that this change had been in operation since the beginning of the school year.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The written reply outlined that a Change in Circumstance application was submitted on the 21 November 2024. Going forward, if the person in charge of the service changes, the service will adhere to the regulation immediately.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the Change in Circumstances form that was submitted to the Change in Circumstance team.

#### Summary Comment

The corrective action implemented has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 8.

### 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 service had a named person in charge and the requirement for a deputy person in charge was also met. Written information confirming this practice was clearly visible in the main entrance area.
  - (b) The person in charge was working at the service when the unannounced inspection commenced. For the remainder of the inspection, either the person in charge or the deputy were available on the premises. The staff roster also indicated that the service was consistently operated with at least one of the two named adults present.
  - (2) Recruitment records in respect of the seven adults attached to the setting were reviewed and the following were deemed satisfactory:
    - (a) Nine of the 14 required written and validated references were from past employers.
    - (b) There were five references available from sources other than previous employers, with corresponding records of validation.
    - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all seven staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
    - (d) Documentary evidence indicated that three staff members had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years and the required police vetting was maintained.
  - (4) Documentation on file confirmed that five of the adults, who were involved in the direct care and education of the children, held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

The sixth adult had obtained a Letter of Eligibility to Practice, from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). A qualification was not required for the registered provider.

## 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.*

*(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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance.

(3) The adult to child ratio met the requirement for a sessional category service, which is 1 adult to 11 children.

The rooms were operating as follows:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
Pre-school 1 (3 – 4 ½ years)	17	2
Pre-school 2 (3 – 4 ½ years)	19	2

### 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)

##### Basic needs:

- Snack time was accommodated in Pre-school 2 at 10.15am. It was observed that the children appeared to enjoy the food provided by their parents and guardians and were afforded ample time to eat and drink at a relaxed pace. Staff members were readily available to provide assistance to the children at this time.
- Drinking water was accessible to the children during and outside of the designated mealtime; in both care rooms, a jug of water and cups were stored on a low-level table. The children's reusable water bottles were also stored on the low-level table in Pre-school 2.
- A suitably furnished rest area was available in each care room for any children who wished to relax.
- The children were encouraged to use the adjacent, easily accessible sanitary facilities, in an independent manner. The inspector was advised that all of the children were toilet trained.
- Throughout the morning, staff members were noted to communicate with the children in a kind, respectful and patient manner. Children were also acknowledged for their efforts in caring for their environment. For example, one of the adults was overheard thanking the children for their help during tidy up time.
- Boxes of tissues were within easy reach for the children, which supported them attend to their own personal hygiene. Staff were also observed to remind children in relation to this practice.
- The layout of the care rooms facilitated the children's freedom of movement, as they initiated their chosen activities and participated in the daily routine. Outdoor play was also accommodated on the day of inspection. This was in keeping with the written daily rota, that had been devised for the playground at the adjacent early years service.

### 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.
- Children brought their own snacks from home. Examples noted on the day of inspection included sandwiches, cheese, yogurts and a selection of fruit, such as blueberries, chopped grapes and apples. Water was provided to drink.
- During conversation, the person in charge advised that if a child became hungry outside of routine mealtimes, they would be encouraged to select a snack from their lunch box.
- It was reported that none of the children had dietary requirements or food allergies.

### 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 controlled by a key pad, which reduced the risk of unauthorised persons gaining entry.
- The outdoor play environment was enclosed by high-level fencing and a secured gate.
- All electrical flexes and cables were inaccessible to children.
- Fire extinguishers were wall mounted.
- Good supervision of the children was ensured by the adults, as they walked through the business square, to the outdoor play area at the adjacent childcare setting. The children appeared familiar with the routine of holding hands with one another and walking in pairs.
- A shock absorbing surface was provided underneath the climbing equipment in the outdoor play area.

### Infection Control:

- Dispensers of liquid soap and paper towels were easily accessible at the wash hand basins within the service. The children were observed to wash their hands before beginning the mid-morning snack and after they had eaten.
- Refrigerators were available and used to store the children's snacks. This reduced the risk of bacterial growth in perishable foods.
- There was appropriate storage for the children's personal belongings. Individual wall hooks were provided for their coats and bags and outdoor footwear was stored on wooden shelving units.
- The care rooms and sanitary facilities appeared clean and well maintained. It was noted that tables were sanitised before snack time.

### Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication was not observed over the course of the inspection. The inspector was informed that none of the children were in receipt of medication.

### Safe Sleep:

- None of the children were observed to sleep during the sessional period.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire exit doors were free from obstruction.
- Fire exit signage was in place and illuminated.

### Outing:

- An outing was not undertaken.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. The children's access to cleaning agents was not prevented in one of the care rooms, which posed a risk of accidental ingestion of a harmful substance. In Pre-school 1, the restrictive opening device on one of the low-level cupboards was observed to be unsecured, when checked on two separate occasions during the morning. The cupboard also contained rolls of plastic bags, which posed a risk of suffocation. This finding was also noted during the previous inspection on 12 January 2022. The CAPA response at the time outlined that the low cupboard in Preschool 1 would be kept secured and that signage had been displayed to remind staff of same. However, this remained an issue.

### Infection Control:

2. Warm running water, as required for effective handwashing, was unavailable at three of the four children's wash hand basins in the sanitary areas and at the wash hand basin in the staff sanitary facility. At the children's wash hand basins, recorded water temperature readings were noted at 17.3°C, 15°C and 14.9°C. A water temperature reading of 14.5°C was taken at the staff wash hand basin. It was acknowledged that when the inspector brought this to the attention of the person in charge, the water heater was checked and was noted to be switched on. However, the water was not sufficiently heated, which impeded effective handwashing.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. The written response stated that a larger sign has been displayed and that staff have been individually advised of the importance of ensuring that the cupboards are secured at all times.

##### Infection Control:

2. The temperature setting on the heater has been altered and a temperature probe has been used to ensure that the water temperature is correct. As a preventive measure, water will be checked on a regular basis, using a temperature probe. A water temperature check sheet has also been added to the file.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

1. The statement submitted is accepted as evidence.

##### Infection Control:

2. Photographic evidence and a copy of the water temperature check record.

### Summary Comment

Based on the statements and partial evidence submitted, regulatory compliance is determined to have been met.

### 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

(2)(a)&(b)

The first aid box was stored in the kitchen, within easy reach of the adults and it was available at all times, for use as required.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1) Written evidence was unavailable to demonstrate that the adults who worked at the setting had undertaken accredited First Aid Responder (FAR) training. It was acknowledged that two staff members had paediatric first aid certificates and that these adults were rostered to cover the hours of operation. However, a FAR trained adult is required to be available to the children at all times.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The written response outlined that staff are enrolled to begin the FAR training on the 28 November 2024. Going forward, additional time will be ensured when organising training.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

A letter from the FAR course facilitator, confirming that the person in charge of the service has commenced the FAR training and is due to complete this training on 7 December 2024.

#### Summary Comment

The corrective action implemented has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 25. FAR certification will be reviewed at the next inspection.

## 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) A written record of completed monthly fire drills was presented for review and it was noted that a fire drill was undertaken on 1 October 2024.
  - (b) The number and type of firefighting equipment available on the premises were listed. According to the most recent maintenance records, the firefighting equipment was last checked in June 2024 and the smoke alarm was tested on 29 July 2024.
  - (4) The steps to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in writing, in the entrance area. Child friendly versions were visible in the care rooms.