

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016CE007		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Cairde Beag -Kilrush		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Grace St, Kilrush, Co. Clare		
<b>Eircode:</b>	V15 N882		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Dorin Graham		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	17/04/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	42	PM 8
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Tusla, Ennis Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare V95TY4E		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M. Ní Nialláin		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<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

Cairde Beag-Kilrush is a purpose-built childcare facility operated by a community group limited company and caters for children from the ages of 0- 6 years. The service is open from 9.00am to 5.30 pm, Monday to Fridays and is registered to cater for a maximum of 80 pre-school children.

### Staffing

The registered provider is not involved in the day-to-day operation of the full day service. A service manager operates the full day service assisted by ten childcare staff, a cook and a caretaker. The service assistant manager, nine childcare staff, the cook and caretaker were present on the day when the unannounced inspection was carried out.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11,19, 23, 25, 26, and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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 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.*

*(6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who-*

*(a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and*

*(b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date.*

*(6A) is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of “paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)” for “paragraphs (5) and (6)”, and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): “*

*(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme.”*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) On the day of the inspection, the assistant service manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the designated person in charge was present on the premises. The staff roster indicated that the designated person or her deputy were always available on site.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references from past employers were available for some of the 13 staff members.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, references from a source other than past employer were provided.

- (c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for all staff employed at the service.
- (d) Police vetting was available for two adults who had lived outside the state for a period greater than six months.
- (4) Eleven adults working in the service held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.
- (6)(a) Not applicable as the qualification exemption for staff retiring by September 2021 was expired.
- (b) Not applicable as the granting of an exemption to the requirement for a qualification under the Early Childhood Care and Education had expired.
- (6A) Not applicable as the qualification exemption for an adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model had not been sought.

### 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) On the day of Inspection there were nine adults including the service assistant manager working with forty-two pre-school children in the morning and two staff working with eight pre-school children in the afternoon. The adult/child ratio in the service was correct.
- (2) The written staff roster showed that the service manager ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service.
- (8)(a) The service was not operated single-handedly, and more than two adults were available in the service.

### 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)There were five playrooms in use on the day of inspection, three at ground floor level and two at first floor level.

#### Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Parents provided the snacks and drinks for their child. The service provided the main meal of the day Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack and meal without being rushed.
- The privacy and dignity of each child was respected. Toileting and nappy changing were carried out in a sensitive manner. Each child has access to a change of clothes if needed.
- The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence. Regular hand washing was observed by the children.
- The children enjoyed freedom of movement in the five preschool rooms and in the outdoor play areas.
- Sleep facilities are available next to the baby and toddler rooms on the ground floor. There was an adequate supply of cots available to facilitate sleep on demand for all children. Low level beds were used for the older children.
- Children were monitored while sleeping and all checks are documented.

#### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The rooms were designated according to the age group of the children using them: baby room, two toddler rooms and two pre-school rooms.
- The playrooms were laid out with uncluttered, clear floor spaces for the children to play safely.
- The opportunity for different types of play and learning were available and accessible in all the rooms.
- The children from Toddler Room 2 and Pre-school Room 1 were observed playing in the secure outdoor play area for periods. This area was resourced with a playhouse, balancing beams, a wooden kitchen, picnic benches, ride on toys, a bus, and footballs. It had an all-weather ground surface and was secured with wooden fencing.

- The outdoor play area adjacent to the Baby room and Toddler room 1 had a wooden kitchen, a bridge, a wooden play shed, a small plastic slide, pouring shoots and some ride on vehicles. It had an all-weather ground surface and was secured with wooden fencing.
- The outdoor area available to the children in Pre-school Room 2 on the first floor had its own separate access. The ground surface was grass. It was resourced with outdoor tables and chairs, a sand box, a wooden playhouse, a seesaw and a climbing frame. It was secured by a high stone wall and wooden fencing. Some of this area had been repurposed as a staff carpark since the last inspection.

### 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 external entrance door to the pre-school premises was secured with an electronic keypad security system.
- Safe storage was available for the cleaning agents and equipment used in the service.
- The person in charge ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children, adults, and visitors to the service.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured.

##### Infection Control:

- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children in the service.
- Playrooms, the sleep room, communal areas and sanitary areas were adequately ventilated by natural forms of ventilation.
- There was liquid soap at the wash hand basins to facilitate hygienic hand washing for children and adults. Paper towels were provided in the dispensers in all the sanitary areas used by the children and adults to facilitate hygienic hand drying.
- There was 2 designated nappy changing rooms available and nappy changing procedures were carried out in an appropriate manner.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medications were not administered in the service on the day of inspection.

### Safe Sleep:

- Standard cots were available in the sleep room off the baby/toddler room on the ground floor. Sleep beds were available for children aged over 2 years of age should they require sleep or rest. Sleeping children were monitored and a log was maintained.

### Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Safe Sleep:

1. The room temperature of the baby sleep room was 22.3°C. This temperature exceeds the safe recommended room temperature of 16-20°C. It is acknowledged that measures were in place in an effort to reduce the risk of overheating. The window was open, the blind was drawn, extra clothing had been removed from the babies and extra bedding had been removed from the cots.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The service submitted a CAPA response on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 which stated:

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Safe Sleep:

Heating has been turned down and advice was sought from an air conditioning specialist. A portable air conditioning unit was rented, and a permanent unit has been ordered and to be fitted in the next few weeks. Staff were each given a copy of the service sleep policy to read and had the opportunity to discuss the policy, so all staff have the same understanding. The Deputy Manager will monitor the temperature in the sleep room. A new wall thermostat was purchased.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### Safe Sleep:

Written submission.

#### Summary Comment

The actions stated meet the requirement of the regulation. The issue will be reviewed at the next inspection.

### 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) All adults present in the service had valid updated First Aid Responder training and the certificates were available for inspection.

(2)(a) There were suitably equipped first aid boxes available in each pre-school room, and they were stored safely on the premises.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to the children attending the pre-school service 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) Records are available to show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises with the most recent service having been completed on 12th September 2022.

(4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on the premises.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The insurance certificate for the service was available and in date on inspection. The required cover was available for a maximum of 80 pre-school children who could attend at any one time.