

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016CE007
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Name of Service:	Cairde Beag -Kilrush
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Address of Service:	Grace St, Kilrush, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V15 N882
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Name of Registered Provider:	Doirin Graham
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection Day 1:	10/04/2024
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Date of Inspection Day 2:	11/04/2024
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No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	63	PM	60
No of pre-school children Day 2:	AM	59	PM	59

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	Á.McCarthy
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

Cairde Beag-Kilrush was registered in 2016 as a purpose-built childcare facility, operated by a community group limited company. The service is located in a two-story building in Kilrush town, in County Clare. The service provides full day, part-time and sessional care, Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 17:30 for children ranging in age from six months to six years. The five care rooms included the following: the Baby/Wobbler room (age range: eight months to nineteen months), the Toddler room one (age range: one to two years), the Toddler room two (age range: two to three years), the Pre-school room one (age range: three to five years) and the Preschool room two (age range: three to five years). An additional, newly developed sensory room is available on the first floor. Three designated outdoor areas were accessed by the children to the front and side of the service.

Staffing

The service manager, the programme support person, fifteen adults who worked directly with the children, a student and an auxiliary person who prepares, cooks and serves food. The service manager provided relief cover in the rooms during breaktime were present on the 10th and 11th of April 2024. The registered provider was not involved in the day-to-day operation of the full day service.

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 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, the 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

On both days of inspection, a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

During the inspection both a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available on the premises at all times.

Twenty-two files were available for the adults employed by the service. These files were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)

Thirty-one written references were available from past employers. Twenty-six of these references were validated.

(b)

Thirteen references were available from a source other than a past employer. Twelve of these references were validated.

(c)

Garda Vetting disclosures were available in respect of all the adults working in the service.

(d)

International police vetting was available in respect of four adults who lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

All the adults working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from level 5 to 8 or an equivalent on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

1. Six references sourced from past employers or source other than a past employer were not validated.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

(2)(a)(b)

Corrective and Preventive Action

The manager has created a new telephone reference validation form and has verified any references which had not been done. The manager will ensure that all references are validated going forward using the updated telephone reference validation form.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence.

Summary Comment

Based on the corrective and preventive actions and supporting evidence provided by the service the areas of non-compliance under Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b) are addressed. The regulatory requirement is met.

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 both days of the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children who attended the service.

(2)
An adequate number of adults cared for the children at all times during the inspection. On the 10th of April 2024 fifteen adults cared for sixty-three children in the morning and fifteen adults cared for sixty children in the afternoon. On the 11th of April 2024 fifteen adults cared the fifty-nine children in attendance.

(8)(a)
The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available on the premises at all times.

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 children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the children. Five care rooms were in operation during the inspection.

Basic Needs of Children:

The staff treated the children in a kind and caring manner and positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions. The staff conversed with the children in a sensitive and respectful manner, used soft tones of voice, used the child's individual name's and responded promptly to their cues for assistance.

The children were encouraged to be independent in play and learning, whilst caring for their belongings and using the toilet. Staff supervised and treated the children in a sensitive manner during nappy changes and toileting. Nappies were changed frequently and on an individual need's basis. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care and nasal care appropriate to their age and level of development. The infant's sleep was attended to on an individual basis, an alternative area and activity was offered for children who did not wish to sleep. The infants were encouraged to feed themselves and promoted to be independent. Appropriate crockery and feeding utensils were provided in each room. The children transitioned to the dining room for mealtime, these periods were observed to be relaxed and unhurried.

The staff offered continuous praise and encouragement and the children were respected and supported in their choice of individual and group engagement in activities. The children's care need observations were shared daily with parents on the electronic application devices.

The children in each room were offered a range of developmentally challenging play and learning activities and the children were observed to be fully engaged and included in all activities in the indoor and outdoor environments.

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

A key person approach was observed in each care room, the staff demonstrated an appropriate level of knowledge of the children's preferences, interests, and individual capabilities. The staff were observed to make good eye contact with the children and engage with them at their level. The staff followed the children's lead in the care rooms and the children were supported in individual and group play. The children were notified in advance of any transitions and consulted in the delivery of the programme of care and learning. The staff in each room worked effectively to facilitate the programme of care and learning. The staff communicated in a positive manner with parents or guardians during drop off and collection periods from the service.

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 service was appropriately secured with a keypad and a bell operated system to monitor people's entry to the service. The internal and external entry and exit points prevented children exiting or unauthorised persons accessing the service. Unauthorised persons were signed in, in the visitor's book.
- The outdoor area was secured with a concrete wall, fencing and gates.
- The children were supervised at all times during the inspection and their arrival and departure to the service was recorded on the service's electronic recording system.
- The materials and equipment throughout the service were maintained in good condition.
- Medication and cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children. Cupboards were secured with child safety devices to prevent the children accessing the contents within.
- The highchairs were maintained in good condition and fitted with safety harnesses.
- Laminated strips were placed on the window glass panels for the children's visibility.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined and pedal operated bins.
- Both the children and the adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, toileting and before mealtime.
- The soothers were stored in individually labelled containers.
- The children's bedlinen and personal care items were labelled and stored individually.

Administration of Medication:

- A service policy was available to inform practice. Adequate documentation was recorded for prescription and non-prescription medications that had been given to children.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep room accommodated seven standard sized cots for the babies to sleep. Low level beds and mattresses were available for children to sleep in the care rooms. Areas for the children to relax were available in each room with soft furnishings.
- The sleep room and care room temperatures were maintained between 16-20 degrees Celsius during the inspection. A thermometer was available in the sleep room for staff to measure and monitor the room temperature.
- Upon discussion, staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the service's safe sleep policy. The children's sleep observations were recorded by staff every ten minutes on the service's electronic application device. These observations included the children's colour, position, and breathing.

Fire Safety:

- Staff maintained records of up-to-date fire safety training.
- The fire exit doors and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- The fire exit routes, and fire assembly points were readily identified with clear signage.

Outing:

- An outing was not undertaken during the inspection. A service policy was available to inform practice.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Perishable food and beverages were not stored in a fridge in the service. The children's perishable snacks and milk were stored in the care rooms. This posed a potential risk of food or beverage contamination.
2. One of the hand wash basin taps was broken in the sanitary facility adjacent to Toddler Room one. Water was only available for children to wash their hands at one wash hand basin in the sanitary facility.
3. Three mattresses in the cots in the sleep room were frayed, discoloured and not wipeable.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Preschool 1 and Preschool 2 are now storing the lunches in a fridge in the dining room. All other rooms have fridges in them and staff have been told that all lunches and milk must be stored in the fridges at all times. All perishable food items and milk will be stored in a fridge at all times going forward.
2. A plumber has checked all the taps in the sanitary facility in Toddler 1 room. One tap was found to be faulty which has been replaced. All staff have been told that maintenance issues must be reported to the manager as soon as they arise.
3. Three new wipeable cot mattresses have been ordered for the sleep room. Staff have been asked to check mattresses on a regular basis and to report any mattresses that need replacing to management.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Documentary and photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

Based on the corrective actions and supporting documentation provided by the service the areas of non-compliance are addressed. The regulatory requirement is 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

(1)

Nineteen adults had a record of up to date First Aid Response training.

(2)(a)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in accessible positions in each room in the service.

(b)

First aid boxes were available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

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 were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out in the service. The last fire drill took place on the 4th of April 2024.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place respectively on the 25th of September 2023 and the 4th of April 2024.

(4)

A fire action notice was displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for eighty children attending the service on a full day care basis. The policy is valid until the 27th of March 2025.