

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017CC501
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Name of Service:	Gogginshill Childcare
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Address of Service:	Goggins Hill, Ballinhassig, Co Cork
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Eircode:	T12 KPD7
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Name of Registered Provider:	Jennifer Cantwell
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	15/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	39	PM	8
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Administration Office, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurranabraher, Cork. T23X440.
Inspection undertaken by:	D Cotter and S O'Brien
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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).

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Description of service

Gogginshill Childcare is a privately owned full day care service, that is registered to facilitate the Early Childhood Care and Education programme. This facility, located on the grounds of the provider's home, includes three preschool rooms, sanitary facilities, nappy changing area, and a large enclosed outdoor play area in a rural setting. The opening hours for the service are 08:00 hours to 17.30 hours daily

Staffing

There are eight adults attached to the service. The registered provider is based in the service. On the day of inspection, six staff and one student on work placement were present.

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.

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

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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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.*

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(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) There was a designated person in charge in the service and a named person who was able to deputise if needed.
- (b) The designated person in charge and the named person was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place in the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that one new staff member had been employed since the previous inspection. On the day of inspection, one student was present on an educational work placement. A total of two files were reviewed.
- (a) Three references were available from a past employer and were validated.
- (b) One reference was available from another source and was validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the one staff member. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. This was not applicable to the student.
- (d) Police vetting was not required the one staff member and the student.
- (4) Evidence of completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications was available for the one staff member. The student on work placement did not require a qualification.

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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

On the day of inspection, the following policies were examined:

- Administration of medication.

The above policy was observed to contain the relevant details to guide the staff with their care practices.

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) The registered provider has ensured that an adequate number of staff are working directly with the children at all times.

(2) The adult to child ratios met the requirements of the regulation. The rooms were in operation as follows:

Morning :

Room name	Type of Service	Age Range	Number of children present	Number of adults required	Number of adults present

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Pandas	Sessional	3-4 years	22	2	3
Beavers A	Sessional	4-5 years	14	2	2
Beavers B	Sessional	4-5 years	7	1	1

Afternoon:

Room name	Type of Service	Age Range	Number of children present	Number of adults required	Number of adults present
Pandas	Full day care	3-5 years	15	2	3

(8) (a) The service was operated with at least two adults present at all times, as indicated through review of the staff roster.

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:

- Staff responded to children in low tones and communicated with them respectfully throughout the inspection.
- Children were observed to eat healthy and nutritious food during the mid-morning snack.
- Children had access to their water bottles throughout the day. Water bottles were stored at child height in each care room.
- A rest area was provided in each room should any child need to rest.
- Children's toileting needs were attended to promptly and staff assisted children when necessary.
- The rooms were well laid out to encourage the children to move freely between the interest areas.
- It was evident through observation on the day of inspection that children's voices were listened to, and children were able to communicate their needs to attentive adults.

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- The staff working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours and supported children to find positive solutions when they experienced challenge in sharing play equipment.
- Children were observed to play outdoors on the day of inspection.

Supporting relationships:

- During the mid-morning snack in the Panda room, staff were observed to sit and eat with children. During this time there was a relaxed atmosphere.
- Children were observed being allowed to self-direct their own learning. Children were afforded the opportunity to choose activities and follow through on these activities. For example, it was observed that there was a shelf in the Panda room where children's unfinished work was being stored so that they could continue to work on them later.
- The staff members demonstrated respect for children. For example, in the Beaver room, a staff member was observed to redirect behaviour using soft and gentle tones.
- In the Panda room, transitions were observed to be as smooth as possible. Staff were observed to give two reminders that the time to clean up would be soon and then a bell was rang to signal the end of free play.
- Staff reported having daily communication with parents at drop off and collection time.
- Many of the children demonstrated a sense of pride in their work and this was acknowledged by staff members. For example, in the Panda room, children were observed to be engaged in a mark making activity. When children went to show a staff member their work, the staff member responded by discussing the work and asking if they would like to take it home or place it in their learning journal.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

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(2) A registered provider-

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

1.

(a) The registered provider has ensured that there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors. It was observed on the day of inspection that each care room hosts a wide range of play equipment with ample numbers of resources available to children. The equipment is contained at child height making it accessible to all children.

There were clearly defined areas of play including, art, construction, tabletop activities, library and a home corner. The outdoor areas were observed to be accessible to children on the day of inspection.

(b) There were adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day in each care room. A rest area was placed close to each library area. This area was away from the play area and was equipped with soft furnishings to create a quiet corner for a child to rest. In addition to these, the registered provider has a supply of age-appropriate beds should a child require to sleep. There is also a supply of linens and blankets which can be laundered on site.

2.

(a) There was a large enclosed outdoor area for children to explore throughout the day. This area was accessible directly from the Panda care room. Through direct observation, this area appeared to be safe and secure with an abundance of play equipment. The outdoor area was divided into two parts, a concreted area and a more natural grassed area. The service has a supply of boots to ensure the children could play outdoors in wet weather. The area was secured with gates and fences to ensure children's safety.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

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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

- Mealtimes were spread evenly throughout the day to ensure children had access to food regularly.
- Children who stay for longer than five hours were served with a hot meal.
- All food is brought to the service from home and stored safely in the service.
- On the day of inspection, examples of the mid-morning snacks were noted to include rice cakes, sandwiches, a selection of fruit and yogurts.
- The children's water bottles were stored at child height and were accessible to the children at all times throughout the day.
- During discussion, staff confirmed that snacks would be offered to any child who became hungry outside of the allocated mealtimes.
- There was a selection of food available should any child forget their lunch. These included rice cakes, crackers, bread and beans.

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:

- Low level windows and doors were fitted with visibility strips.
- Blind cords were secured on all windows.
- Flexes and cables were observed to be out of reach of children.
- Cleaning agents were inaccessible to children.
- The outdoor area was securely fenced to prevent unauthorised access.
- Grapes for the mid-morning snack were observed to be cut in such a way that they did not pose a choking hazard.
- Heavy equipment and furniture had been anchored to prevent them falling onto a child.
- Children's play equipment, and furniture, were observed to be in a clean state and of good repair.

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- The children's bags and coats were stored safely off of the floor level to prevent trips.
- Entry to the service is restricted to prevent the unauthorised entry to the premises or the unsupervised exit of a child from the premises.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were in use throughout the service.
- Staff were observed to sanitize tables prior to meal times.
- Each sanitary area was fitted with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels. Water temperatures were recorded between 32°C and 42.5°C which allowed for effective hand washing.
- Perishable food was safely refrigerated.
- Windows were open in the care rooms to aid natural ventilation.
- It was noted that children washed their hands when returning from outdoor play and from the bathrooms.
- Windows in the sanitary accommodations had been opened to aid natural ventilation.
- Sand trays in the outdoor area were observed to be covered when not in use.

Administration of Medication:

- On the day of inspection staff reported that no child was in need of regular medication.
- A supply of fever reducing medication is stored by the service, in its original container out of reach of children.
- Emergency medication, along with a detailed care plan is accessible to adults within the Panda room.
- Through direct discussion with staff, it was clear that staff understood their roles in relation to the administration of medicine and this was in line with the policy document examined by the inspector.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were found to be free from obstruction.
- Wall tethered firefighting equipment was readily available.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. An adrenaline autoinjector was observed to be stored on a child height shelf in Pandas room and was easily accessible to children. This posed a risk to the children. It was acknowledged that the staff removed the adrenaline autoinjector from the shelf when brought to the attention by the inspector.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

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General Safety:

In the written response, the registered provider has detailed how staff have been reminded of the importance of storing medication out of reach of children. A new space within the high level shelving units in the care rooms have been clearly labelled as the designated storage space for medications.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

A photograph of antifebrile medication stored on a high shelf out of reach of children within the care room was submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that each pre-school child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by an employee on the day of inspection.

(3)

(a) The registered provider has ensured that any person other than an employee, a preschool child of a person dropping the child off cannot gain entry to the premises.

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(b) The Inspectors were asked to sign the visitors book on arrival, and it was evident that a record is kept of any such person who enters 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. The registered provider has ensured that there was person trained in first aid at all times available to the children. Through the inspection of staff records, it was noted that there were two adults with First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

2.

(a) (b) There was a fully equipped first aid box in the care room which was stored safely out of reach of children but easily accessible to staff.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service was appropriately insured to provide full day care for 44 children, and the policy was valid until 27 March 2027.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Compliance Information

(d) On the day of inspection, the premises, both indoors and outdoors, appeared to be in a state of good repair. Both environments were clean and tidy. Cleaning schedules for the indoors and outdoors were reviewed and were found to be completed to a good standard.