

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2019DL003
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Cloghan Childcare Centre, Curam Leanai an Chlochan
-------------------------	--

<b>Address of Service:</b>	An Clochan, Leifear, Co. Donegal
----------------------------	----------------------------------

<b>Eircode:</b>	F93 K028
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gwendoline Furey
-------------------------------------	------------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day Care
----------------------	---------------

<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	15/11/2023
-------------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	31	PM	13
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N McEndoo
<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 Childcare 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

This rural service is based in the village of Cloghan, near the town of Ballybofey, Co. Donegal. The service comprises of two playrooms namely – Classroom 1 and Classroom 2, which are in two prefabricated units. The premises has two kitchens, one in each prefabricated unit with an arrangement where the main hot meal of the day is supplied by the local adjoining health care centre kitchen. The pre-school children have access to outdoor play areas to the front, rear, and side of the pre-school, for children’s physical play activities, exploration, and fresh air. There is a secured play area, football pitch and the service have access to a public play area adjacent to the service. The service offers full-time and part-time daycare service from 8 am to 6 pm. The service also offers the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) preschool care programme. Additionally, the service offers a school aged service.

### Staffing

The registered provider is not on the premises daily. There is a manager, the designated person in charge and a named deputy manager. The registered provider has an adequate number of adults to work directly with the children who hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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 the following: Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment, Regulation 11 - Staffing levels, and Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child.

however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child. These findings are 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 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

(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 and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was 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.

(2) On the day of inspection, 10 adults were employed to work directly with the children.

The following vetting information was available for 10 adults:

- (a) 18 written validated references from past employers for 10 of the adults.
- (b) 2 written validated references from reputable sources for 2 of the adults.
- (c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for 10 adults.

(4) Ten of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection, the registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

When the inspector arrived unannounced, there were 9 staff members working directly with 31 children. The person in charge was working with children in the Naoinra room and was also available to the staff in a supernumerary capacity.

(2) The registered provider ensured that on the day of inspection, the adult to child ratio was always maintained at the minimum specified ratios.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1) It is acknowledged the service had a staff roster available. However, the roster did not accurately depict the staff present in the service on the day of inspection. One staff member who was rostered to be in the Naoinra room, was working directly with the children in the Wobbler room for the duration of the inspection. The inspector was advised the staff member who was rostered for the Naoinra room, was moved to the wobbler room due to the inspection. The staffing levels observed on the day of inspection were not in line with the roster.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

Staffing in the rooms will reflect staff roster, also roster will be displayed in each room and in the main office.

## Supporting documentation submitted

None submitted.

## Summary Comment

The actions submitted in the corrective and preventive form have been reviewed by the inspectorate and the non-compliances found on inspection have been addressed. This regulation is now compliant and will be checked on next inspection.

## 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*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

## Compliance Information

(1) (a) The children's learning, development and well-being was observed to be facilitated on the day of inspection.

- Children in the Naoinra were free to choose their own activities. There were well-defined areas of interest in the room. The materials supplied in the room were age and stage appropriate for the children.
- Children in the Naoinra were observed to access the outdoors and make use of the large outdoor area. Children were observed to enjoy running around, playing in muddy puddles and engage in water play. Children were suitably dressed in waterproof clothing.
- Toddlers, wobblers, and babies were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> care room. There was a child's height fence to divide the room, ensuring the baby area was kept separate and safe.
- The service promoted healthy eating. Food and snacks were provided by the service for the Baby, Wobblers and Toddlers. A four-week menu plan was available for viewing in the lobby area of their care room. Water and milk were served to children at each mealtime.
- The baby area contained soft padded flooring, supports to aid with sitting, a ball pool, mirrors and a variety of age and stage appropriate equipment.

- Two adult sized chairs were available to staff to ensure comfort when feeding, cradling, and caring for children throughout the day.
- The toddler and wobbler area contained well defined areas, with arts and crafts, home corner, construction corner, and library area with a soft mat for children to rest on. In the afternoon children had the opportunity to engage in sensory play using soapy foam.
- Children in the Toddler and wobbler room were afforded the opportunity to play outside. It was evident that children played outside regularly as they were aware of the rope train procedure used to transport them safely to their destination. On the day of inspection, it was cold, and children were dressed appropriately. The children and staff sang ‘Wheels on the bus.’ as they made their way to the community playground in front of the service. Children who were new to walking were supported and encouraged by staff members.
- Short, medium, and long-term curriculum plans were displayed and documented on the notice board within the care room and were evidently in place as the children’s art displays were displayed reflecting same within the care room. Children who disengaged with the activity, for example story time, were free to engage in other activity of their choosing with in the care room.

(b) The inspector observed appropriate care practices during the inspection.

- Staff were observed to sit with children throughout the day and engaged in child led conversation and activities.
- Staff interacted well with the children throughout the day, supporting and encouraging children in self-care activity such as dressing and underdressing when putting on and taking off their outdoor gear.
- During mealtimes, staff were observed to sit and chat with children, at their level, promoting a relaxed atmosphere, encouraging, and helping them to eat when required. Children in highchairs were socially involved in the mealtime by sitting them close and facing into the group of children.
- After mealtime, children were observed to have their faces and hands cleaned with their own individual cloths.
- During nappy changing the staff members spoke and interacted positively with each of the children. All children were handled in a sensitive and kind manner when being changed.

### Non-Compliance Information

(b) Appropriate care practices were not observed to be in place for the following.

- Two children who could sit and walk independently were observed in highchairs from 12:05 until 13:02, and 13:05. It is acknowledged meals for the group were served at 12:11. All food for the group was finished by 12:47. Children who are confined in equipment for longer than 15-minute period have their need for freedom and mobility restricted impacting on their physical and emotional development.
- One child, who was notably tired and in need of a sleep, was observed to wait up to 60 minutes before being placed for a nap. Children who are tired will not engage effectively with play and learning opportunities. The individual sleep needs for this child, under the age of two, were not facilitated on the day.
- Childrens basic care needs in relation to having noses wiped regularly were not always met during the day of inspection. While in the playground from 11.20 until 11:55 toddlers had no access to tissues.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (b)
- All children who now independently walk are in designated seats at low level now, so they have freedom to remove themselves when they are finished eating. This has been something staff have acted on immediately and Room leader is very vigilant on since inspection.
  - Staff were reminded of importance of being aware of children's sleeping cues, and parents informed staff on settling in regarding sleeping schedules.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

None submitted.

### Summary Comment

The actions submitted in the corrective and preventive form have been reviewed by the inspectorate and the non-compliances found on inspection have been addressed. This regulation is now compliant and will be checked on next 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

A travel cot was observed in use for children in the baby room. A child was observed to be sitting up unaided and self-feeding on one occasion, posing a risk of falling backwards, or pulling himself out of the cot injuring himself. On another occasion a child was observed to fall asleep in the same cot. It is acknowledged the child was then placed into the sleep room to continue his nap. Travel cots and portable cribs are prohibited items and not to be used as a sleep or feeding facility by a service.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

The service can confirm we didn't have a travel cot in the baby area, it is a child rocker and the child in question was rocked to sleep like this at home.

The rocker was immediately removed, and a sleep schedule was adapted for the child with support from their parents, the child now independently falls asleep in their cot at home and in the service.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

None submitted.

#### Summary Comment

The actions submitted in the corrective and preventive form have been reviewed by the inspectorate and the non-compliances found on inspection have been addressed. This regulation is now compliant and will be checked on next inspection.