

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2019FL002			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Charlies Childcare (Seamount)			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	2-3 Jamestown Orchard, Malahide, Co. Dublin			
<b>Eircode:</b>	K36 YX94			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ronnie Carroll			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/06/2025			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	43	PM	36
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15.			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Y Kelly & AM Coyle			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors			
<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

Charlie's Childcare (Seamount) is part of a group provider of early years services owned and operated by the registered provider in north Co. Dublin. This service provides full day care, part-time and sessional childcare services for pre-school children from 12 months until they commence attendance at primary school. The service currently operates from 7.30am to 6.30pm. Eligible children are facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.00am to 12.00pm for 38 weeks each year. This service is operated from a purpose built two storey premises located within a residential housing estate. The Wobbler/Toddler room is located on the ground floor as is the cot room, with Preschool 1 and Preschool 2 room located on the first floor. The service has a fully enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear and side of the premises.

### Staffing

There are 10 members of staff employed to work in this service including the service manager and 9 staff members employed to work directly with the children. On the day of the inspection the service manager and 9 staff members were present in the service. The company's business owner, group general manager and area manager arrived at the service during the morning of the inspection. Along with the service manager, the chief operating officer and the area manager were present in the service for the inspection closing meeting. The registered provider does not work in the service on a daily basis and was not present on the day of inspection.

### Methodology

Tusla 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 the regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25, 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler/Toddler Room, Pre-school Room 1 and Pre-school Room 2.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the management team, 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.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The service manager was the designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person to deputise as needed.

(b) The service manager was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service at 09.15am.

(2) The files for 3 new staff members were reviewed and Garda vetting was reviewed for 10 adults including the person in charge, and the following was recorded:

- (a) Four validated and written references were available from past employers.
- (b) Two validated and written references were available from a reputable source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 10 staff members including the person in charge. The Garda vetting records reviewed demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International Police was reviewed for 3 new staff members, and the following was recorded:

International Police vetting was available for 3 adults who had lived outside of the state for a period of more than six months.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 3 staff members whose files were reviewed and who may work directly with the children in the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

### 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 the inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced at the service and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In the Wobbler/Toddler Room there were 12 children aged 1 year 1 month to 2 years 10 months being cared for by 3 staff members.
- In Pre-school Room 1 there were 15 children aged 3 years to 4 years 1 month being cared for by 3 staff members.
- In Pre-school Room 2 there were 16 children aged 4 years to 5 years being cared for by 3 staff members.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present in the service at all times. This was confirmed by the staff roster.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(i) A staff roster and staff sign in records were maintained on a daily basis and these were presented for inspection.

(k) The service had a record in writing of the details of accidents, injuries and incidents involving pre-school children. Fourteen records were sampled, and 11 records were found to be clear and legible and included parental signatures to confirm that they had been informed and were aware of the incident involving their child.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(k) Three of the accident and incident forms reviewed in the service did not include parental signatures as a means of ensuring that parents had been informed and were aware of an incident/accident involving their child.

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

##### Corrective Action

(1)(k) All three accident and incident reports were signed by the parents and sent home.

##### Preventive Action

(1)(k) The service has since held a staff meeting to discuss the importance of parental signatures and have refreshed all staff with further training and details of their accident and incident policy.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

- Accident and incident reports with parental signatures.
- Copy of staff meeting agenda.

#### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 16 have been addressed.

### 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 following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

#### Basic needs:

- Children's meals are sourced from an external food company and are reheated and served by staff. On the day of the inspection the children had 'sweet and sour' chicken and vegetables with mashed potato or rice. Morning snack consisted of crackers and bananas and afternoon snack consisted of cheese and tomato toast. There were alternative food options available for children with additional dietary requirements or preferences.
- Children's water bottles were accessible to the children indoors and water bottles were brought to the outdoor area during outdoor play times.
- The children's personal care needs were attended to promptly. Nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently as needed. The staff members used the opportunity to engage with and chat to the children. The children who were toilet trained used the toilet independently.
- The children in the Wobbler/Toddler Room slept in cots at scheduled sleep times, in the morning and after they had their dinner. The children aged over 2 years in the service who required sleep slept on stackable beds and cocoon bed set up in the Wobbler/Toddler room after the children had their first hot meal in the service.
- There were cosy areas available for the children to relax in as required. Cosy areas were equipped with a mat, sofa's, cushions and a selection of books for reading and relaxation.
- All of the children attending the service were given the opportunity to spend time in the outdoor area during the inspection.

### Supporting relationships

- Staff demonstrated warm and caring interactions with the children. There was a welcoming atmosphere in the service. Children were comforted when upset and children received praise and encouragement from staff.
- During transition to sleep, staff were available to assist the children in getting ready and helping them to settle.
- Staff communicate with parents through use of a digital software application to share information about children's care needs and observations of children's learning and development.

### Physical and material environment:

- There was age-appropriate furniture with small child sized chairs and tables for children to sit whilst they played or for mealtimes.
- In the Wobbler/Toddler room play resources that were available were stored on low level shelving for the children to access. The Wobbler/Toddler room consisted of a wooden kitchen and play materials, dolls and dress up for dramatic and imaginative play, cosy area where children could relax and read books. There were construction materials with plastic building bricks, transportation toys, small world materials including animals and dinosaurs for pretend play, tabletop materials including jigsaws to support early numeracy learning opportunities.
- Both the Preschool room 1 and Preschool room 2 care rooms were laid out in defined interest areas and were well-resourced with equipment and play materials including, art and crafts materials, construction zones, shop areas, home corners, a broad range of tabletop materials in addition to reading and relaxation areas which supported all areas of development.
- A variety of multi-sensory experiences were provided in the care rooms including sand trays and water trays.
- A fully enclosed outdoor area divided into two areas is located to the rear of the service. In the outdoor play area for the Wobbler/Toddler room there was a playhouse, play kitchen, transportation toys and large plastic building bricks for construction play, see-saw, ride on bike and ride on car which promoted gross motor and fundamental movement skills. The area used by the children attending Preschool room 1 & Preschool 2 was surfaced with artificial grass, the area provided the opportunity for the children to engage in running and free movement, a small slide, a wheelbarrow, play gym and small slide were provided for the children to use.

### Programme of Activities:

- Staff carry out weekly curriculum planning and the theme was based on exotic animals and summer clothes.
- Identity and belonging were promoted in the service. For example, there was a 'Family Wall' display in each room with photographs of children's families.
- Staff sang songs and read stories to the children which supported children's language development.
- Staff facilitated dancing and movement with the children which promoted gross motor development and fundamental movement skills.
- The staff sang the 'clean up' song at tidy up time and children were involved in tidy up and bringing resources outdoors for outdoor play.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Physical and material environment:

1. There were limited interest areas in the Wobbler/Toddler Room to enable children to freely choose activities to support child led play.
2. There were no supporting play materials available for the playhouse or the play kitchen in the outdoor area to enable the children to extend their play.
3. There was no adult sized chair in the Wobbler/Toddler Room for staff to sit with the children at mealtimes or during activities.

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

#### Corrective Action

#### Physical and material environment:

1. Additional toys have been purchased.
2. Kitchen equipment was purchased for the outdoor area. Outdoor toys such as dolls, sensory mats and a cot have been introduced into the playhouse.
3. Adult sized chairs were in the sleep room and office on the day of inspection. Adults sized chairs are now in the Wobbler/Toddler room.

#### Preventive Action

#### Physical and material environment:

- 1.2. Managers and staff have been reminded to do weekly toy audits.
3. Staff reminded not to remove the chairs from the room.

### Supporting documentation submitted

- Photographic evidence of the following was submitted: interest areas and resources in the Wobbler/Toddler room, materials for the playhouse and the play kitchen in the outdoor area, adult sized chair.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances under regulation 19 have been addressed.

## 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:

- On arrival to the service, the inspectors observed that the door was secure and monitored by staff.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of the children.
- The outdoor play area was fully enclosed and secured and was mainly surfaced with artificial grass.

#### Infection Control:

- Liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary facilities.
- Pedal operated bins were available for waste and disposal of contaminated items.
- Windows were open for air circulation in the care rooms.
- Children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times, such as before eating and after using the toilet.

#### Safe Sleep:

- The children aged less than 2 years had access to a standard cot to sleep in.
- Sleep plan documentation was available to demonstrate that a full sleep plan review had been completed by staff and that parents had been fully included in this decision.
- Ten-minute sleep check observations noting each child's colour, position and breathing pattern were being performed and documented on all sleeping children using a digital software application.

### Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were unobstructed in the event of an emergency evacuation.
- There was a fire evacuation plans displayed in the hallway of the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

1. Wipes were used to clean children's faces after dinner in the Wobbler/Toddler Room. This did not lead to effective infection control.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective Action

#### Infection Control:

1. Face cloths were purchased, and staff no longer use water wipes.

#### Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

1. Staff do not use wipes and will always use face cloths going forward.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

1. Receipt for face cloths.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 23 has been addressed.

## 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) An adequately stocked first aid kit was observed in the service.

(b) First aid boxes were stored out of reach of the children but available to staff as needed.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that an adequate number of staff were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and a staff member trained in FAR was available on the premises throughout the opening hours of the service. There were two staff members trained in First Aid Response (FAR) on the day of the inspection. However, there was no staff member available with First Aid Response (FAR) training from 7.30am until 8.30am when children were present in the service.

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

#### Corrective Action

(1) Two more staff attended First Aid Response (FAR) training on the 4 July 2025.

#### Preventive Action

(1) Manager to make sure that someone in the creche is FAR trained at all times.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

2. Evidence was submitted of First Aid Response (FAR) training attendance for two staff members carried out on the 4 July 2025.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 25 has been addressed.

## 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) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last fire drill dated as having been carried out on the 02 May 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record for firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment was last serviced on 27 June 2024 and the smoke alarms were serviced on 27 March 2025.

(4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in the service.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

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

#### Non-compliance Information

(d) The registered provider did not ensure that the premises was being maintained in an appropriate condition as evidenced by the following:

1. The toilet seat was broken in the Wobbler/Toddler Room sanitary facilities.

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

##### Corrective Action

(d)

1. The toilet seat was tightened and fixed immediately.

##### Preventive Action

(d)

1. Management and staff to carry out daily risk assessments and will report to their maintenance team to fix anything immediately.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

- Photographic evidence was provided.

#### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 29 has been addressed.