

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019LK002
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Name of Service:	Ros na Ree Kids Club
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Address of Service:	75 Ros na Ree, Churchill Meadows, Raheen, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 TD52
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Name of Registered Provider:	Caroline Roche
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	19/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne
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
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Description of service

Ros na Ree childcare first opened in 2019. The service provides full day, part time and sessional care to children aged from 1 to 6 years of age, Monday – Friday, 07.30 – 18.00hours, for 52 weeks of the year. This service operates from the ground floor only of a two-storey building.

The facility is located in a residential area, close to Limerick city. The service has two playrooms in operation for the pre-school children, nappy changing and sanitary facilities, kitchen and a storage area.

It has an office and separate sanitary facilities for the adults working in the service.

There are 2 enclosed outdoor play areas to the rear of the premises.

The service is registered to operate as a school age service which is also located on the premises.

Staffing

There were 6 staff members documented on the staff roster. On the day of the inspection the service manager, three early years educators, one kitchen staff member and a school age practitioner were working in the service.

The registered provider does not work in this service but is available if required.

The staff working with the children hold the appropriate childcare qualification.

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

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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.

Regulation 9(1)(a)(b)(c)2(a)(b)(c)(d)(3)(4)

Regulation 11(1)(2)

Regulation 19(1a)

Regulation 23

Regulation 24 (1)(3)

Regulation 25, (1) (2) (a) (b)

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.

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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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 person who was able to deputise as required.
 - (b) The named person was available on the premises on the day of inspection.
- (2) The files of 2 new staff members were reviewed on the day of the inspection and the following documents were available on file for these staff:
- (a) There were four written and verified references from the person's past employers and the most recent employer on file.
 - (b) References from reputable sources in the case of a person who had no past employers were not required.

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(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available in respect of all staff members working in the service. Garda vetting for the 6 staff members was dated within the last three years as per the regulatory notice, EYI-RN12.3 renewal of garda vetting, published by the inspectorate in September 2023 and effective from Jan 01/01/2024.

(4) There were 4 staff members with the appropriate childcare qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) Police vetting disclosure in respect of two staff members was not available for a state that they had lived in for a period longer than six consecutive months.

(3) All of the required vetting documentation was not furnished to the registered provider prior to each staff member taking up employment at the service.

This could pose a risk to the health and safety of children when appropriate vetting of staff has not taken place prior to being allowed access to children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action: The registered provider has stated in the Corrective and Preventive Form (CAPA) that:

(d) Police vetting has been received for one staff member. The vetting procedure has commenced for the second staff member.

(3) The service will ensure all foreign vetting for periods abroad are received prior to commencement of work in creche.

Supporting documentation submitted:

Evidence of the police vetting was 1 staff member was received into the inspectorate office.

Summary Comment

(d)
The requirement has been partially met with one of the two police vetting for the staff members submitted to the early years' inspectorate.

The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate office upon receipt. The noncompliance in relation to regulation 9(d) Police vetting for the one staff member remains outstanding.

(3) This will need to be reviewed at the next inspection.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 3 staff working across 2 care rooms with 16 preschool children present in the morning and 3 staff members caring for 13 preschool children present in the afternoon.

During the period of inspection, the minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained and an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children in each care room.

Junior preschool room – There were 8 toddlers (2-3yrs) and 2 staff.

Senior preschool room – There were 9 preschool children(3-5yrs) and 1 staff.

The person in charge was available to relief staff for meal breaks and covers the office management duties. An additional staff was available to work in the kitchen preparing and serving the food, drinks and meals.

The staff member caring for the school aged children was rostered to arrive in the service at 13:30pm.

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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

Basic Needs:

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service to encourage and educate the children about the importance of good nutrition. Meals and snacks were prepared on-site daily and delivered to each room individually. Children's drinks were easily accessible to them throughout the day. The staff sat with the children during mealtimes to give examples of positive social skills. The atmosphere was observed to be relaxed during the mealtime in the Junior and the Senior Preschool rooms. Each child was given plenty of time to eat and enjoy their drinks and meals without being rushed.

Sanitary facilities were conveniently located adjacent to each room. A nappy changing station and one wash hand basin was positioned off the Junior Preschool room to attend to the needs of the younger children in a timely manner. The older children were observed going to the bathroom on their own but were closely supervised by sight or by sound for a short interval.

Children's privacy and dignity was respected, including during toilet training, which was tailored to each child's developmental stage and readiness, rather than their age.

Each room was equipped with tissues and wipes within easy reach of the children, along with foot pedal, lidded bins for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels. To encourage independence and organisation, each child had a clearly labelled storage space and coat hook featuring their photo for personal belongings.

The children who required a sleep had access to low-level beds in the Junior preschool room, with a staff member present or checking at regular intervals throughout their sleep time.

Additionally, rest areas with soft seating, cushions, blankets, and soft floor coverings were available in each playrooms to provide comfort and relaxation.

Each preschool child was assigned a key person to develop their trust and to be actively involved in the children play where appropriate.

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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:

All internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas such as kitchens and sluice rooms.

All external areas were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and prevent unauthorised people entering the building.

All emergency exits and fire doors were unobstructed.

All blind cords were secured on tension hooks and made safe in all rooms.

All toys, furniture and play equipment were in good condition and free from sharp edges or corners. No broken toys were noted on the premises.

The preschool children had no access to the kitchen area.

No flexes or cables were located within reach of children.

Infection Control:

A detailed infection control policy was in place and all staff were familiar with the procedures outlined in the policy. A high standard of operational hygiene was observed in all areas of the building. All waste was adequately disposed of in foot pedal operated bins. Nappy changing policies were displayed in the sanitary areas. Staff were observed appropriately handwashing, wearing gloves, and cleaning all surfaces after each nappy change.

Administration of Medication:

All medicines were stored in safe areas well out of reach of children at the service. Parents gave written consent for the administration of all medicines.

All medication administered was checked by 2 staff members and all details were clearly documented

Fire Safety:

Fire drills were practised monthly and staff had a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities in relation to fire safety policy.

Outing:

There was evidence of an outing policy for the service but no outing had taken place from the service.

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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) All adults dropping children to the service checked the child in with the person in charge of the service. At home time children were checked out of the service in a similar manner. The staff documented the children's arrival time and their departure time each day.

(3)(a) The service ensured that only children attending, the person who drops and collects and the employees gain access to the premises.

(b) All visitors to the service must be signed in and signed out by the person in charge.

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.

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Compliance Information

(1) There were two staff members that held an up-to-date certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training. At least one of these staff members were on the premises while the service was in operation. This was confirmed on review of the staff roster.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was easily accessible to the staff, and staff were aware of its location in the service.

(b) The first aid box was stored out of reach to children and was available should it be required.