

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020KY001
Name of Service:	Caherslee Childcare Services
Address of Service:	Alandale House, Pluckeen, Caherslee, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Eircode:	V92 TD1F
Name of Registered Provider:	Lorraine Smith
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
Date(s) of Inspection:	11/12/2024
No of pre-school children:	AM 20 PM 08
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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	N/A
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Description of service

Caherslee Childcare Services is a private early years service that is registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care to children between the age of 2 year to 6 years. The service operates between the hours of 8:30 am and 6pm offering 2 sessions from 09:00 am to 12 mid-day and 1:30 to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The service operates from the ground floor of a 2-storey building in the urban area of Caherslee, Tralee.

Staffing

There are currently 5 adults attached to the early years service who are involved in the direct care of the children that includes the registered provider and 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme. In addition, there was 1 student on placement.

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 inspections 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

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, deputy 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 registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named deputy to deputise in her absence as required.
- (b) When the announced inspection commenced, the deputy in charge was on duty and the registered provider arrived subsequently, they both remained available to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the 6 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) 10 references were from previous employers with records of validation were on file.
- (b) 2 references were from sources other than previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting was on file for each of the 6 adults. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years in respect of each of the applicable adults.
- (d) Police vetting was on file for 1 adult who required it.
- (4) The staff members working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with copies of the relevant qualifications on file.

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 did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(2)

There were 5 adults caring for 20 children aged between 3 and 5 years, 3 children attending on a sessional basis, 14 children attending on a part-time full day care basis and 3 children attending on a full day care basis.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(a)

The registered provider did ensure that a minimum of 2 adults are on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

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:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

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

Compliance Information

(1) A written record of the following was maintained:

(h) Details of daily attendance for each child.

(i) Details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

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

- The food consumed by the children was provided by the children's parents/guardians and consisted of sandwiches, fruit, cheese, rice cakes and yogurts.
- The children assisted the staff with putting away the toys and clearing the tables prior to the mealtime.
- The children choose the table they wished to sit for the mealtime.
- Children assisted the staff in getting the lunch bags and putting them away when finished with and they discarded food packaging in the designated bins in the room with gentle reminders and encouragement from the staff present.
- The adults sat with the children whilst eating, all children had ample time to eat their food.
- The children who had eaten before others went to play for example with the playhouse and choose books from the resourced book area.
- The children's drinks were accessible to them throughout the day.
- Children who were hungry approaching the time for the 2nd meal in the service were facilitated to eat.
- The children had un-restricted access to the toilets located in the playroom, they were observed to independently access them during the inspection.
- The children had access each day to the outdoor play area located to the rear of the premise. The children were observed playing there during the course of the inspection.
- The staff caring for the children were kind and caring towards the children and spoke to them in low soft tones of voice.
- The premise was colourfully decorated with Christmas themed artwork by the children, a Gingerbread House made by the children and a variety of Christmas trees and decorations.

Non-Compliance Information

- Each of the children attending the service on a full day care basis did not have a main hot meal served in line with the requirement for children attending a service for on a full day care basis that 1 meal must be a hot meal.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- The parents have been asked to bring in meals that can be re-heated for the children who are attending on a full day care basis. Suggestions have been given to the parents to assist them with making healthy meal choices. If the meal is not provided the parent will be contacted to deliver one. A record of the daily main meal will be recorded.

Supporting documentation submitted

The written communication with parents in respect of the provision of a meal hot meal for children attending the service for over 5 hours.

Summary Comment

The requirement for the regulation has been met.

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 main door leading into the building was secured to prevent unauthorised access by any person.
- The playroom door was secured to prevent a child leaving unsupervised.
- The stairs were fitted with a secure child gate at the end of the stairs preventing children from accessing it.

Infection Control:

- There was a fridge provided in the playroom for the storage of children's perishable food items.
- Hand hygiene by the children was supported and encouraged by the adults who supervised the children when they washed and dried their hands for example before mealtimes.
- All tables were cleaned down prior to the mealtimes observed on inspection.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit was unobstructed.
- Fire drills were conducted on a monthly basis as evidenced by the written records.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The children's perishable food items were not stored in the fridge to prevent food spoilage.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The service has added a new "game" to the daily morning routine whereby a staff member will be allocated to enable the children assist in placing the lunches in the fridge on arrival.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

The statement and written reminders for parents to place children's perishable items in a labelled zip lock bag to store in the fridge.

Summary Comment

The requirement for the regulation has been 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there were staff available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. There were 2 staff rostered with up to date FAR training.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a)
 - Visually the premise appeared to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b)
 - The premise was safe and secure.
- (c)
 - The lighting in the playroom area provided artificially and supplemented by natural lighting via the windows and the glazed panels on the fire exit doors was satisfactory.
 - The playroom and sanitary rooms were ventilated by means of the openable windows.
 - The air temperature of the playroom was recorded at 18.3 degrees Celsius.
- (e)

There were 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins allocated for the children's use located within the playroom on the day of inspection. The sanitary facilities allocated for the staff, that is 1 toilet, and 1 wash hand basin was upstairs in the building. The temperature of the warm water at the children's wash hand basins was recorded at a range between 36.2 and 36.6 degrees Celsius. There was a supply of soap, disposable paper hand towels and pedal operated lidded bins were provided at each of the sinks.