

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020MN001
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Name of Service:	Klaine Childcare Ltd
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Address of Service:	Unit 5 York Street, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
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Eircode:	A75WD28
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Name of Registered Provider:	Clare Callan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	21
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange Plantation Rd Monaghan
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader and M. Flood
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable.
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Description of service

Klaine Childcare Ltd provide a full day care, part-time, sessional service to children from 2 to 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme.

The service is located in a commercial building and consists of the following 3 rooms, the Pre-ECCE Room, Junior and Senior ECCE Rooms.

Other rooms in the service included a kitchen, office, reception area, children's and staff sanitary facilities.

An outdoor area was located to the rear of the premises with a partially sheltered area available.

Staffing

There were 15 staff employed in the service. One was employed to work with the school aged children, one employed as floater and to work with the school aged children. One employed as a cleaner and the registered provider in an administrative role. Eleven staff worked directly with the preschool children.

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 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 co-operation 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,*

(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 had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection. The registered provider also arrived to the service.
- (2) (a)&(b) Twelve existing staff files were reviewed for Garda vetting and references and 3 new staff files were also reviewed.
- Eleven staff had 2 written and validated references available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.
 - Four staff had 1 written and validated reference.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 15 staff. The registered provider adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Following a review of the files presented for inspection, international police vetting was not required at this time.
- (4) Of the 3 new staff files reviewed 1 staff member had a minimum Level 5 childcare qualification and a second did not require a qualification as they are employed to work with the school aged children. The remaining staff qualifications were reviewed on the previous inspection and were compliant.

Non-Compliance Information

- The registered provider had not completed the required vetting procedures for all staff working in the service.
- (2) (a)&(b)
- Four staff members did not have a second written and validated reference.
- (4) One staff member who was employed to work directly with the preschool children did not have documentary evidence available for inspection of a qualification equal to a minimum Level 5 childcare qualification.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a)&(b)

- All members of staff have two sufficient written references.
- Complete the checklist to staff commencing employment to ensure there are two written references.

(4) This staff member is currently in senior afterschool care only.

Ensure all staff in preschool rooms have a minimum level 5 in qualification in Early Years or an equivalent.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and validated references x 4

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting evidence. The non-compliances in Regulation 9 have been addressed and will be for review at the next inspection.

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 correct adult: child ratios were maintained in the service throughout the inspection.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed in the rooms:

- Pre-ECCE Room: There were 8 children between the age of 2 years 8 months to 3 years being cared for by 3 staff members.
- Junior ECCE Room: There were 13 children between the age of 3 to 4 years being cared for by 2 staff members.
- Senior ECCE Room: There were 11 children between the ages of 4 to 5 years being cared for by 2 staff members.

After the ECCE session finished the remaining children from the Junior Room went to either the Senior or Pre-ecce Room for the afternoon and this room became a room for the school aged children.

(8) The registered provider ensured that there were always two adults on the premises when the service was in operation, as evidenced in the staff roster maintained in the service.

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:

- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (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)(h) All children present were signed in on the daily attendance book for each room.

(i) A weekly staff rota was available for the service which documented the staff who were rostered to work including break times.

(k) A sample of 10 accident and incident forms were reviewed. All forms were complete and contained the required manager, staff and parental signatures to confirm that they had been informed about the incident.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(g) The service did not have a policy for the care and storage of soothers in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(g) Safe sleep policy amended to include sufficient care and storage of soothers. All staff immediately informed of the change in the policy. Soother containers purchased and labelled for each individual child who sleeps in the setting.

Keep new and current staff/parents up to date with the amended safe sleep policy. Use the policies clear instructions to educate new and current staff about correct soother care and storage.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of Safe Sleep policy incorporating soother care.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance in Regulation 16(1)(g) has 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

There were 3 rooms in operation on the day of the inspection: namely the Pre-ECCE Room, Junior Preschool Room and Senior Preschool Room.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service:

BASIC NEEDS:

- In the Junior Room children who required a sleep had their sleep needs met before their dinner when the reading area was converted to a sleep area.

- Nappies were changed regularly and in a timely manner with pleasant interactions observed between children and staff. The children who were toilet trained were encouraged to be independent with toileting. Discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children after toileting.
- In general dinners for those attending on a full day care basis were provided by an outside caterer. On the day of inspection as it was the last day before the Easter holiday a takeaway of chicken goujons and chips was brought in for the children. Lunch snack for the morning and afternoon were provided by the parents and breakfast and evening snack were provided by the service. Assistance was given to the younger children who required feeding. Bibs were put on the younger children before meals and hands and faces cleaned appropriately after the meals. Staff were observed to sit with the older children at mealtimes and this time was used to encourage conversations between the children. Consistency of the dinners were observed to be age appropriate throughout all rooms.
- The children's drinks were located on a low-level table / shelf and were available to the children as required.
- Throughout the care rooms, children were observed to be provided with sensitive care and nurturing interactions by all staff. A key worker system was in place in the service, and this was on display in the care rooms. It was observed that each staff member had a small group of children assigned to them and the key person took the lead in supporting that child's transitions, recording their daily activities, maintaining relationships with their families, and documenting their learning and development. Staff when questioned were familiar with strategies being used for children who required additional supports in the service.
- The children had free movement in the care rooms and the children all had a change of environment to the outdoor area.
- Transitions were smooth including getting ready to go outside where the children from 1 room were observed to hop out like Easter Bunnies and another room to march out like superheroes.

Non-Compliance Information

1. In the Senior ECCE during a tabletop activity all the jigsaws in plastic bags or boxes were observed not to have a picture of the completed jigsaws on them to guide a child to complete it independently and successfully.
2. The nappy changing room door on the hallway was wedged open for the duration of the inspection. This does not maintain the privacy and dignity of the children who are having their nappies changed in this area.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. All boxes/zip-lock bags in the Senior room, containing jigsaw contents have been labelled with the matching laminate images.
Regular checks will be carried out by staff as part of the deep clean process to ensure all boxes/trays and zip-lock bags have labels for their matching contents.
2. Door to the nappy changing room is closed over enough to ensure that the children have their privacy while undergoing nappy changes.
All staff were verbally notified of this change in the nappy changing procedure and will be monitored by management to ensure it is being implemented,

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of updated nappy changing policy and photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting information. The non-compliances have been addressed and will be for review at the next inspection.

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-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day,

(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, or

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)(b)

- A suitable comfortable rest area was available in the Pre-ECCE Room and Senior ECCE Room, with soft seating, fleecy blankets and soft mats provided, should a child need to take a break from activities during the day.
- The reading area off the Junior ECCE Room was converted to a sleep area after 12pm and contained 2 daybeds which were placed out for the children over 2 years of age who required a sleep or rest. Additional daybeds were available if required and the children's bed linen was stored in individual lidded boxes.

(3)(a) Outdoor area:

The children had access to an enclosed outdoor play area that extends across the back of the building. The area was partially covered with an artificial grass surface. A variety of equipment was available for the children to access including; a plastic house, resourced mud kitchen, caterpillar wall mounted activity board, balls, large outdoor game, small plastic climbing frame x 2, a ground slide, ride on toys and bubble car. There was also a long wooden bench to sit on.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) There was no soft cosy area in the Junior Preschool Room for the preschool children attending this room to go and relax in or take a break from activities.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b) Junior preschool have a cosy, quiet area for children to enjoy. It includes a sofa, soft mat, bean bags, teddies and a bookshelf.

Staff reminded of the importance of a 'quiet area' for young children. Checks will be carried out by management to ensure the cosy area is available at all times for the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response is accepted and the non-compliance addressed. This will be for review at the 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.

Compliance Information

It was observed that the registered provider has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service including:

General Safety:

- All emergency exits were clear and unobstructed.
- The new electric radiators were all cool to touch.
- All blind cords in the service were restricted or were inaccessible to the preschool children. Documentary evidence of daily risk assessments was evident in the service.
- Cleaning equipment was stored out of reach of the children.
- Television screens were observed wall mounted and out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- There was a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and single use paper hand towels available to support effective hand washing in the service.
- Effective hand washing practices were observed during the inspection, after toileting, nappy changing and outdoor play and prior to snack time.

Safe Sleep:

- Ten-minute physical safe sleep observations were observed to be carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines.

Fire Safety:

- There was a written service record for the maintenance of the smoke alarm system dated 6/1/25 which is within the required yearly service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There were unprotected sharp corners on some of the shelving units and tables in the Junior ECCE Room. These are a potential injury hazard.

Infection Control:

The following infection control risks were observed;

2. The nappy changing policy of the service was not being fully implemented. For example; a staff member was observed to wipe the nappy changing mat with a “baby wipe” after the procedure which is at variance with the services nappy changing procedure that details the requirement to wipe down the nappy changing mat with chlorine-based solution after each nappy change.
3. Soothers were observed to be stored loosely in children’s bags and this practice was confirmed by staff.
4. Table tops and surfaces were observed being cleaning with a disinfectant in the Junior ECCE Room. The registered provider and deputy in charge also confirmed that water and a disinfectant were used to clean toys and surfaces in the service. This is at variance to best practice infection control and cleaning guidelines.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. All tables and sharp edges have been covered with protectors.
Staff encouraged to use risk assessments frequently to ensure no sharp corners are visible or harmful.

Infection Control:

2. Antibacterial spray and wipes are available to clean down nappy changing surfaces between changes.
There is always antibacterial spray and wipes available to staff readily accessible to use between nappy changes.
3. Soothers all stored in individual labelled containers.
Soother containers labelled and stored in childrens individual sleep boxes.
4. All table tops and surfaces are cleaned at the end of each day with hot soapy water. Toys are also cleaned with hot, soapy water. Table tops and surfaces are sprayed with antibacterial spray and wiped with antibacterial surface wipes during the day
Infection control policy 'Cleaning' amended to include cleaning methods for all toys, table tops and surfaces.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting evidence. The non-compliances have been addressed and sustainment of the corrective actions will be reviewed at the next inspection.