

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020TY003				
Name of Service:	Caterpillars Childcare Killeen				
Address of Service:	Killeen, Templederry, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary				
Eircode:					
Name of Registered Provider:	Grainne Harte				
Service type:	Full Day, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	25/04/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>47</td> <td>PM</td> <td>42</td> </tr> </table>	AM	47	PM	42
AM	47	PM	42		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary				
Inspection undertaken by:	L McGeeney				
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

This full day care service was established to provide care and education to children aged 0 – 6 years. A registered school aged care service is also provided.

The service operates Monday – Friday, 7am – 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. This includes a three- hour sessional service operated under the early childhood care and education scheme (ECCE), Monday – Friday, 9am – 12pm, for 38 weeks of the year.

The service is operated from a former national school in the village of Killeen, Templederry in North Tipperary.

The service consists of three activity rooms, two sleep rooms, kitchen, sanitary accommodation areas, office and large outdoor play areas.

This is a sister service to Caterpillars Childcare Newport and Caterpillars Childcare Rearcross.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service on a daily basis but is available to call on when required and visits the service several times each week. The service manager is the person in charge on a daily basis. There were eleven staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection including the service manager and staff employed under the access and inclusion model (AIM). A member of staff responsible for food preparation and cooking was also present but did not work directly with the children. The quality control manager for the three services was also present for part of the inspection.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26 and 28.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9 Management and recruitment.

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

(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

The staff files of ten staff who had started working in the service since the last inspection on 31 March 2021 were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

- (2)(a) Written, validated references from past employers were available in respect of all ten staff.
 - (b) Written, validated references from a source other than a past employer were available in respect of three staff.
 - (c) Garda vetting had been carried out in respect of all members of staff. Relevant documents were stored on file.
 - (d) Not applicable as none of the staff had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or longer.

- (4) All staff who worked directly with the children held recognised qualification in early childhood care and education at levels 5 or 6 on the national framework of qualifications.

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.*

- (4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and
 - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).
- (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) There were 10 staff working directly with 47 children aged between 9 months and five years on the morning of the inspection. The staff and children were divided between three activity rooms as follows:
- 3 staff and nine infants aged between 9 and 18 months old in the Baby room,
 - 3 staff and 16 children aged between 19 months and 3.5 years in the Toddler room
 - 4 staff and 22 children aged between 3 and 5 years in the Pre-School room.
- The service manager was also available and provided relief for staff breaks in each room during the inspection. By the afternoon there were 42 children being supervised by 8 staff, including the service manager. School aged children arrived in the service in the afternoon, there were additional staff available to work with them so that their presence did not have a negative effect on the adult to child ratios required for the early years children.
- (2) The adult to child ratios were maintained within the recommendations for the duration of the inspection.
- (8)(a) There were a minimum of two staff present at all times while the service was in operation.

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-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(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 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)(a) The children had access to one of the three activity rooms in the service. Each room was large and bright with lots of room to move about, explore and engage in activities. There was also a sensory room, off the Pre-School room which was used by the children for quiet time and small group activities. The children enjoyed daily access to play outdoors.

(b) There were cosy spaces in each room where the children could sit or lie down and relax, away from the general play area. There were two sleep rooms, off the corridor that ran the length of the premises, that were used by children under two years who required a sleep during the day. There were cots and camp beds available in the Toddler room for the older children who slept during the day.

(2) The service was surrounded by large outdoor play spaces which included a ball court, grass fields and an enclosed playground. On the day of inspection all of the children had access to the playground. There were two covered sections which enabled the children to play outdoors in all weathers. One of these sections was for the exclusive use of the younger children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service was well equipped and furnished with a wide range of furniture, toys, equipment and materials. Each room had a range of tables and chairs suitable to the age and stage of development of the children using them, including highchairs, toddler chairs, child sized sofas and chairs for staff. Padded floor mats were used in the Baby room to facilitate rolling, crawling and floor-based activities. Open shelving units were child height which supported the children to find and independently access the toys and materials they wanted.

The service had purchased a triple and a quad buggy since the last inspection, which enabled the youngest children to go outside for walks throughout the year.

There was a large variety of equipment to support all aspects of the children's learning and development, including ball pools, activity centres, mirrors, books, musical instruments, play kitchens, construction toys, imaginative play materials, sensory and manipulative play materials, art and craft materials and small world toys. There were also opened-ended play resources such as sand, water and playdough.

The equipment and materials for outdoor play included a large climbing unit with tree house and slides on a soft fall surface, ride-on toys, balance bikes, balls, caterpillar tunnel, rockers, wall mounted mirrors and planting areas.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy. Staff responsible for food preparation had received training in managing food allergens.

In line with best practice, infant formula was made up at home, transported to the service and stored in the fridge until it was required.

The service had a weekly menu plan displayed on the premises and available on the services website for parents to view. Food provided to the children included breakfast, morning break, dinner and evening tea. Children could bring a packed lunch for their morning break or have it supplied by the service. On the day of inspection the

morning break was pots of fromage frais, crackers and plates of quartered oranges, bananas and apple. Dinner on the day of inspection was baked ham, carrots and mashed potato with gravy. Meals were served with drinks of water or milk. Some children brought their own drink bottles which were refilled with water when required. Other foods eaten by the children on the day of inspection included: rice cakes, sandwiches, cheese, crackers, yoghurts, fromage frais and fruit (kiwis, strawberries, grapes and raspberries).

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The service used an internet-based computer application, designed for use in early years services, to record the arrival and departure times of the children. A tablet device was available in each room for the staff to access when inputting information such as the children's attendance details.

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

(1) There were two staff present on the day of inspection who held up to date certification in first aid response (FAR). Several members of staff held current certification in paediatric first aid.

(2)(a) A well-stocked first aid box was stored in the managers office where it could be easily accessed when required.

(b) The first aid box was available if required by a child attending the service.

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 firefighting 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) There was a written record of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service, most recently on 13 April 2023.

(b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms which were serviced annually, most recently in May 2022.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each of the rooms in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service had current insurance cover for a full day care service for up to 55 children at any one time. The insurance was valid until 27 March 2024.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School