

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021GY004
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Name of Service:	Cairde Early Learning Centre
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Address of Service:	Claregalway NS, Lakeview, Claregalway, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91C6D0
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Name of Registered Provider:	Noreen Murphy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A. 1st Floor- Green Corridor),Merlin Park, Galway.
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly.
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Title:	Early Years Inspector.
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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

The service is in a designated playroom in Claregalway national school, in the village of Claregalway. The service was registered in September 2021 and operates a sessional service for pre-school children aged between 2 years to 6 years of age. The service offers an early childhood care and education, sessional care programme from 8:45 am to 12:15 pm, Monday to Friday

Staffing

There were 2 adults working in the service on the day of inspection. The register provider does not work on the premises on a daily basis.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 11 and 19 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed risk was identified under Regulation 9. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19, Health, Welfare and Development of the child.

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.

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 and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the manager was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

It was confirmed that there were 3 members of staff employed in the service.

All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 5 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) There was 1 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 3 staff working in the service.

(4) There were 2 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police Vetting disclosure was not available for 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 months.

- (4) There was 1 adult working directly with children who was not able to provide evidence that they had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply.

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

The staff member has made an application for the police vetting disclosure to the country in which they lived for a period more than 6 months.

(4)

The staff member enrolled in a Child Care course to achieve the required qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 26/09/2023, evidence was submitted to the early year's inspectorate to acknowledge that an application for a police clearance certificate was made to the country in which the staff member lived for more than 6 months.

Evidence was submitted in the form of an email to indicate that the staff in question, enrolled in a childcare course on the 18/09/2023.

Summary Comment

The non-compliances identified under this regulation on inspection have not been adequately addressed as (2)(d) and (4) remains outstanding.

Evidence that the staff member has obtained Police vetting has not been submitted and while it is acknowledged one staff member has enrolled in a childcare course, evidence of when this will be completed has not been submitted.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the day, there were 16 pre-school children being cared for by 2 adults.

At 10.15 am on the day of inspection, the following care room was in operation.

(3) Playroom (ECCE), there were two adults caring for 16 children.

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,

Compliance Information

(1)

BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and this was evident by the healthy snack and lunches the children ate at snack time.
- The atmosphere during snack time was relaxed, the staff sat with the children and spoke and chatted with them in a positive manner and friendly manner.

- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet, which was conveniently located adjacently to the playroom.
- All the children were observed washing their hands prior to snack time and after using the toilet.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND THE CHILDREN.

- The service supports children in forming and sustaining relationships by assigning a key person to each pre-school child.
- Transitions of children from the service ,was made as easy and as comfortable as possible. The staff had introduced various activities to facilitate the move to national school by inviting the children’s new junior teacher to meet with the children. The staff had put the new school uniform in the dress up corner ,so the children could try on the uniform and get familiar with it. They had organised various activities, such as a colouring exercise that was linked to the new school uniform that the children will be wearing when they attend school in September.
- The staff had gathered a selection of observations, photographs and the children art ,craft work from their time in pre-school and presented them in the form of a scrapbook to the parents at a recent graduation sermon .
- Staff encouraged and supported and praised children for specific and positive behaviours observed during the session. The children got an opportunity to speak , sing and engage during the session, the staff appeared interested and praised all the children’s efforts.
- The staff offered support and comfort to children when required, this was observed during the session, a child got very shy and just needed a few gentle words, which immediately resolved the situation.