

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022LK002
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Castle Kids Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Bulgaden National School, Bulgaden, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V35 F589
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	PJ Carey
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/04/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Browne
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This sessional and part time service opened in September 2022 in Bulgaden National school. The service caters for children aged 3 to 6 years, operating a sessional service from Monday – Friday, 09.00 – 12.10 hours .

The service has one large playroom, sanitary facilities for the children and adults and access to outdoor space and a playing pitch to the rear of school building.

### Staffing

There are 2 staff employed to work in the service each day and they have achieved an award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

The registered provider is not on site working in the service.

### 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 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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) The registered provider had appointed a designated person in charge who was available on the day of the inspection and there was a named person who could deputise if required.

(b) The person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(c) The person in charge and the staff working in the service had a clear understanding of their own role and range of responsibilities to ensure the quality and safety of care provided to the children.

(2)(a) There were written references, from past employers, available in respect of each staff working at the service.

(b) A reference furnished by staff was on file from a source other than a previous employer.

(c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available in respect of each staff working at the service.

(d) Police vetting was not required as none of the staff had lived outside the jurisdiction.

(3) All the required documentation was in place for each staff before they commenced employment at the service.

(4) All staff employed at the service held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The service provided a sessional service in a designated playroom from 09.00am to 12.10 pm each day. On the day of the inspection there were 9 pre-school children present with 2 staff members, the adult child ratio was compliant with the requirements of Regulation 11.

(2) At all times the registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service.

### 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 and parents provided the children with healthy snack options and drinks for break time. Mealtimes were treated as a social occasion with staff sitting and chatting with the children while they dined.

Children had unrestricted access to the toilets located next to the playroom. Low level sink, hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were accessible to promote hygienic washing of hands. Children who were capable of going to the toilet on their own were at all times within hearing distance of the staff. The staff were observed encouraging the children to wash their hand following outdoor play and were supervised and assisted if needed.

Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence. Space was provided for each child's belongings such as individual coat hooks with their name and picture to support organised access, independence and name recognition.

Indoors rest area with soft furnishings was accessible at all times to the children if tired and in need of a rest period.

The children had the opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment both indoors and outdoors. A change of clothes was available for all children if needed. A sheltered area was provided outside for the children allowing them to access the playground in all weather. The children had the use of the school yard and the green field /garden space to facilitate physical games, fresh air, fun and exploration.

Behaviour was managed in a positive manner with efforts made to prevent problems developing. Children were encouraged to resolve their own problems and find favourable solutions when conflicts occurred. Age-appropriate expectations of behaviour were always considered. Staff were observed to interact very well with all the children in their care, speaking in low tones of voice, responding to the children and allowing them plenty of choice relating to playing, games and outdoor activities.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge had completed first aid responder training and the cert was in date up to April 2025.

(2)(a) There was a well-stocked first aid box located on the premises.

(b) The first aid box was readily available and easily accessible if required.

### 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 fire fighting 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) Fire drills were carried out monthly. The most recent drill took place on the 21/03/2024
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises with the most recent service of the equipment carried out in October and November 2023.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in the playroom.