

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024WW003		
Name of Service:	Caireen Early Years Ltd		
Address of Service:	Archers Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow		
Eircode:	A63 K308		
Name of Registered Provider:	Osmond Kilkenny		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	18/02/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	42	PM 39
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.		
Inspection undertaken by:	M Condon and H Bourke.		
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	N/A		

Description of service

Caireen Childcare is a privately operated service which is registered to provide full day care, part-time care and sessional care for pre-school children from 0-6 years of age. The hours of operation are between 07.30- 18.00 daily. The premises is purpose built as part of a new housing complex. The service is located in a two-storey standalone building and comprises of seven care rooms, three sleep rooms, sanitary accommodation for both children and adults, a kitchen, staff room, storage areas, an office and an entrance hallway. Outdoor play area for the service is sited at the back of the premises and car parking is provided at the front of the building.

On the day of inspection five rooms were open with pre-school children attending: namely, Seomra Glas and Seomra Ban on the ground floor and Seomra Liath, Seomra Rua and Seomra Donn on the first floor.

Staffing

There are fifteen staff members employed, one of whom is a full-time chef. The person in charge and their deputy were present and available to provide support in the rooms if needed.

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 and safety. 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 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 has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the Inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- A total of eight adults were employed since the last inspection.
- (a)&(b) There were thirteen written and validated references for eight new staff members.

(c) Documentary evidence of processed Garda Vetting Disclosures was available for eight staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for eight new staff members who had lived in another state for a period longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)
Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the eight new staff members who worked directly with children had 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) No validated references were available for one staff member. One reference for another staff member was available but was not validated.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Two validated references are now in place for one staff member.

The reference for the second staff member is not necessary now as the person ceased employment at the company.

Going forward will ensure that all references are verified before commencing employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of validation of references.

Summary Comment

The registered Provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 9.

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)
Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children. There were 42 children attending the service being supervised by 14 adults on the day of inspection.

(2)
The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection.

(8)(a)
There were more than two adults in the premises throughout the inspection and the staff roster confirmed that there are at least two adults present at all times.

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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed. The procedure for evacuation was on display in each room.
- All cleaning agents were kept out of reach of children.
- Written individual care plans were available for children when needed and these were easily accessible for staff. Staff caring for the individual children were knowledgeable regarding the steps to be taken if necessary.

Infection Control:

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before lunch, after using the toilet and after outdoor play. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed in accordance with the services infection control policies and procedures.
- Each child's soother was stored in individual containers and were sterilised daily.
- Cleaning schedules were maintained in each care room and the environment was clean.
- A system was in place to clean cots between use when the cots were shared between two children.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication records were reviewed. The administration of medication procedure was followed by staff and related documents were signed and dated.
- Written parental consent was available should temperature reducing medication be required to be administered to a child.
- All medication was stored in a safe place and was clearly labelled for each individual child.

Safe Sleep:

- On the day of inspection, a sleep log was maintained every 10 minutes by staff detailing the physical checks carried out on sleeping children under 2 years of age.
- The temperature of the sleep room and the care rooms where children slept was in the acceptable range.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The practices observed nappy changing were inconsistent and did not demonstrate best practice in relation to infection control as follows:

- During the nappy changing procedure in Seomra Liath each time the bin was required the foot pedal operation was not used which caused over-handling of the bin, posing a risk of cross infection.
- The staff member did not remove gloves and apron at the required time to avoid the risk of contamination.

2. The nappy changing policy was reviewed, and changes were required to clearly state the steps to be taken.

3. In Seomra Rua hands were cleaned with baby wipes prior to dinner, instead of washing with soap and water.

This is not best practice in relation to infection control.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. This staff member has been re-trained and monitored to ensure that the correct nappy changing procedure is followed at all times.

2. The nappy changing policy and procedure has been reviewed and all staff have been re-trained.

3. Staff have been re-trained regarding the importance of hand washing. Children's hands are now washed using warm water and soap.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Copy of updated nappy changing procedure which clearly states the steps to be taken.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23.

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)

Adults trained in First Aid Response were present and immediately available to the pre-school children.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b) There were two first aid boxes on the ground floor. One first aid box was stored on a very high shelf in the kitchen which was not easily accessible. The second box was stored on the floor in the hallway adjacent to the exit to the outdoor area. This location was unsuitable.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(a)(b) The location of both first aid boxes is on a shelf in the hallway on each floor where it is easily accessible to all staff. Clear signage is now in place indicating their position.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the first aid boxes and their location.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 25.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The children attending the service were supervised by staff members at all times while indoors and outdoors during the inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27th of March 2025. The insurance provides cover for up to 58 children attending for full day care.