

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:	27/04/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	87	PM 79
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Level 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 7		
Inspection undertaken by:	R Phillips M Condon		
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).

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Description of service

Caireen Childcare is a privately operated service which is registered to provide full day, part-time and sessional care for pre-school children from 0-6 years of age. The hours of operation are between 07.30 - 18.30 daily. The premises is purpose built and forms part of a 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. An outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises and car parking is provided. On the day of inspection seven rooms were open with pre-school children attending namely, Seomra Bui, Seomra Bán, Seomra Glas, Seomra Rua on the ground floor and Seomra Liath, Seomra Corcora and Seomra Donn on the first floor.

Staffing

There were twenty-seven 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. The registered provider was not present and does not work 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

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9 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (3)(4) – Management and recruitment,

11 (1) (2) (8)(a) – Staffing levels,

15 (1)(a)-(i) (3)(c) Record of a preschool child,

19 (1)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child,

23 Safeguarding, health, safety and welfare of child,

25 First Aid.

26 (1) (2) (c) (4) Fire safety measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 (1)(3)(c) and 19(1)(b). As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms Ban, Buí, Glas, and Rua. Twenty Children's registration forms were sampled.

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, deputy 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.
- (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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The deputy person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived unannounced for the inspection. The manager of the service arrived and was present for the remainder of the inspection.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure evident in the service.
- (2) Through discussion with the service deputy manager, it was confirmed that there were three adults employed since the last inspection. These adults' full staff files were reviewed. There was an adult contracted to work with the children for a mindfulness and movement class present and her file was also reviewed.

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- (a)(b) Six references from the adult's most recent previous employer and two from reputable sources were available and had been validated as required.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff and the registered provider. They were dated within the last three years in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorates regulatory notice that requires registered providers to reapply for garda vetting for all staff within a three-year timeframe.
- (d) There was a record of international police vetting for three adults who had lived outside of the Irish jurisdiction for six months or longer as adults available as required.
- (4) Records were available evidencing that the staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

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)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2)
The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services were adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 87 children attending the service being supervised by 20 adults on the morning of the inspection. There were 79 children being cared for by 16 adults in the afternoon. The person in charge and deputy person in charge were not counted in the ratios but were available to assist as needed.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i) The written records regarding twenty pre-school children were reviewed. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the information listed above (1)(a) - (i) as required.

(3)(c) The records were made available to the inspector.

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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-
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

Drinking water was available to the children throughout the inspection. The children were served regular nutritious meals and snacks

The staff recognised signs of tiredness and supported the younger children to sleep when they were tired.

The staff assisted the children to remove outer clothing and to settle to sleep, giving soothers to those who use them.

The staff have a key worker system in Seomra Bán and Seomra Buí. Although some of the children attending were relatively new to the service, the staff displayed awareness of their individual needs in conversation with the Early year's inspector.

The staff changed children's nappies at designated times and in between as required.

The inspectors observed warm engagement with the children when the adults were carrying out their care needs.

The staff sat with the children when they ate, assisting younger children as necessary and encouraging them to feed themselves.

All the children had an opportunity to play outside on the day of inspection.

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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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The door to the service was kept adequately secured to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised.

Storage facilities were inaccessible to the children present.

Thermostatically controlled water was available which did not exceed 43°C.

The toys and equipment observed in use were in good condition.

The outdoor play area was enclosed and secured.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap, warm water and handtowels were available to facilitate handwashing.

Staff were observed to wash their hands after assisting children with personal care, as per the services nappy changing and handwashing procedures.

Children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times to prevent the spread of infection after outdoor play, using the toilet, nappy changing or before eating.

Children's bed linen was stored individually and labelled. Staff stated that all bedlinen is washed each week or as required. It is sent out to an external company.

The cots in the designated sleep room were adequately spaced and mattresses were wipeable.

Soothers were stored individually before sleep and sterilised afterwards for use the next day.

There was an adequate system in place for mouthed toys in Seomra Buí, Seomra Bán and Seomra Glas, inspectors observed toys being taken out of circulation for disinfection prior to re-use.

Administration of Medication:

Staff demonstrated through discussion that they were familiar with the procedure for safe medicine administration.

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The inspector observed two children receiving medication. Staff demonstrated the safe procedures and were observed checking the medicine name and dose, consent for administration and co-signing same with a colleague. Care plans were in place for children who may require medication, with the pertinent information required to inform their safe care.

Medication was stored in its own packaging, out of reach of children and in a conspicuous place for adults.

Safe Sleep:

The children were supervised in ratio while sleeping in Seomra Rua on low beds as required.

Individual sleep checks were carried out as required on sleeping children in Seomra Buí. Sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. The lighting was ambient for observation at sleep time.

Fire Safety:

All emergency exits were kept clear from obstruction.

Fire procedures notices were displayed clearly throughout the service.

Staff identified the assembly point for the inspector.

Outing:

The manager of the service stated that they do not bring the preschool children on outings.

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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)

It was confirmed by review of staff files, and discussion with the registered provider that five staff present throughout the inspection held in date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates. The roster evidenced that one or more were available to the children at all times of opening.

(2)

(a) Adequately equipped first aid boxes were stored in conspicuous locations that were easily accessible throughout the service.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to the children in the service at all times.

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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.*
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
- (c) an authorised person.*
- (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) A record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed the last fire drill had taken place on 26 March 2026.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced in May 2025, and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system was last carried out on 19 March 2026.
- (2) (c) The records were made available for inspection.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations throughout the service.