

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024WW003

Name of Service: Caireen Early Years Ltd

Address of Service: Archers Wood,
Delgany,
Co. Wicklow
A63H7Y0

Email Address: recruitmentcaireen@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: William Mc Mickan

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Drop-In	
	Sessional	✓	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed service type: Proposed service catering for total 90 pre-school children aged 0-6 years attending for full day care, part-time care and sessional hours. Opening hours 07:30-18:30 each weekday for 51 weeks of the year.

Proposed Number of Children: 90

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) Service to cater for 90 pre-school children aged nine months to 6 years attending for full day care, part-time care and sessional hours. Opening hours 07:30-18:00 each weekday for 51 weeks of the year.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care/Part Time/Sessional Service for 58 Children.

Date of Inspection:

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Inspection Undertaken by: Mona Condon & Helen Bourke.

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Loughlinstown Health Centre,
Loughlinstown Drive,
Loughlinstown.
County Dublin.

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Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care/Part Time/Sessional Service for 58 Children.
Date of Registration:	25 th July 2024

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	<p>The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide full day care, part-time care and sessional service for pre-school children aged nine months to six years of age. The proposed hours of operation are between 07.30- 18.30, and it will operate for 51 weeks of the year.</p> <p>It is proposed initially that 49 children will be accommodated on a full daycare basis with Rooms 1-5 inclusive in use.</p> <p>Room 6 and Room 7 will not open initially. It is planned that both rooms will cater for children aged 3-6 years. Room 6 will cater children on a full daycare basis and Room 7 will cater for children attending on a sessional basis.</p>
Premises	<p>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 7 care rooms, three sleep rooms, sanitary accommodation for both children and adults, a kitchen, staff room, storage areas, an office and an entrance hallway. The registered provider confirmed that Rooms 1 to 5 inclusive will open initially and Rooms 6 and 7 will open at a later stage.</p> <p>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.</p>

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Staffing	At present there are 12 staff employed. There is a named person in charge and named deputy person in charge employed. Future staffing will depend on the number of children attending and their ages. All staff will have childcare qualifications at least at level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or the equivalent.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under four themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to the registering application. 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.</p>
Acknowledgement	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider, person in charge and staff 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A proposed person in charge, and deputy person are employed.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required. There are an additional 10 staff members available to commence employment.

It is acknowledged that the person in charge is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the pre-school children in the service. The staffing complement will increase depending on the number of children present and their ages.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been partially met.

(1)(a) Play equipment in all rooms was located on open low-level shelving for easy access by pre-school children. Low level tables and chairs were provided in all care rooms for table-top activities.

All rooms were equipped with age-appropriate safe toys and equipment.

An armchair was available in Room 1 so that staff could sit comfortably to feed/nurture a baby.

The outdoor play area was located at the rear of the premises. It was bordered by high walls and fencing. The area's surface was covered with artificial grass. Suitable and safe toys and equipment were available.

An area at the back of the outdoor area was covered and could be used during periods of inclement weather.

A cleaning schedule was in place to clean toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors.

(1)(b)

Three separate sleep rooms, off Room 1, 2 and 3 were available. The three sleep rooms had lights which could be dimmed.

Room 1 Sleep Room

Seven standard cots were available in a sleep room located off the room 1 for children ages 9 months-18 months who will attend. The person in charge is aware that each individual baby's sleep needs will be met to sleep on demand.

The number of cots required will vary depending on the ages of the babies attending:

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	<p><u>Room 2 Sleep Room</u></p> <p>Seven standard cots were available in a sleep room off Room 2 to accommodate children aged 18 months to two and a half years.</p> <p><u>Room 3 Sleep Room</u></p> <p>Seven stackable low beds were available for children aged 18 months to two years in the sleep room off Room 3.</p> <p>Twenty-nine additional low beds were available for children attending the creche where they can be accommodated to sleep in their care rooms.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>1.The allocated rest area in each room was provided by means of a wooden structure, rectangular in shape with an archway as its entrance. It was stated by the Registered Provider that the structure was incomplete. The inside area of the structure was too dark to supervise a child if inside it while they rested.</p> <p>Adequate rest areas, where a child could rest and take a break from activities are therefore not available in all of the care rooms.</p> <p>2. In Room 1 the area for babies to crawl and explore their environment needed to be enlarged. The mats were too small to provide adequate space for the proposed nine babies aged 9-18 months.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>1.Wooden Structure sensory units have been removed and replaced with shelving to store children’s materials. New cosy areas have been set up in all rooms with age appropriate materials.</p> <p>2. The removal of the wooden units and additional soft mats have opened up the floor space and additional cosy materials have been added to the space.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>Photographic evidence has been received regarding points 1 and 2 above.</p> <p>The requirements have been met.</p>

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Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

Breakfast, hot lunches and snacks will be provided to children attending on a sessional, part-time and full day care hours, in line with the healthy eating policy of the service.

Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable snacks.

All meals will be prepared on site and a full-time chef will be employed in the service. A three-week menu is available in the kitchen. Portable water will be available for children in all care rooms.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- The front door leading to the hallway was open. Parents/guardians must ring a bell to gain access to the service. The two doors leading from the hallway were locked. Each room has a screen to identify the person at the door prior to allowing access.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Storage is available for children's belongings.
- Cleaning materials and equipment are locked in a cupboard in the service.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to children.
- A fridge is available in the kitchen for the storage of food.
- A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available.

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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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. Three staff members employed had completed First Aid Response training which expires in March 2026.

(2)(a)(b) Each floor had a large fully equipped first aid box available which was easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position. In addition, each room had a small first aid kit available.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been partially met.

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	<p>(1)(a) A method to record in writing each fire drills completed on a monthly basis in the service was available.</p> <p>(b)A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. The fire-fighting equipment and the fire detection system were both last serviced in May 2024.</p> <p>(4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the care rooms throughout the service. The fire assembly point is identified by signage within the premises and is located at the rear of the premises.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(4)</p> <p>Signage was not available outdoors to indicate the Fire Assembly Point for use in the event of a fire and while carrying out fire drills.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>The signage for the Fire Assembly point has been updated and placed in the Assembly area outside the building. All indoor signage has been updated to indicate the location of the area also.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>Photographic evidence has been received.</p> <p>The requirements have been met.</p>

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

A statement of insurance was received by the Registration Office and is valid from 01/06/2024 to 27/03/25 for a maximum of 58 children on a full day care basis therefore, registration approved for 58 children.

The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the operation of the service. The approval is contingent on the Registered Providers compliance with Regulation 28.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been partially met.

(a)The premises appeared to be well maintained.

(b)The door at street level leading to the premises was open. The two internal entrance doors leading into the service were kept secured at all times during the inspection. Entrance to the service will be permitted by staff in their rooms who can visually identify the person prior to allowing admission.

(c)

Lighting

All light fittings throughout the service were flush with ceiling tiles and covered with shatterproof diffusers. The premises were adequately lit by means of natural lighting which was supplemented by artificial lighting. In each of the seven care rooms on ground floor and first floor levels, large windows provided natural light.

The lighting in the three allocated sleep rooms could be dimmed.

Heating

The air to water heating system was thermostatically controlled. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection. The sleep rooms were between 18-20°C on the day of inspection. All rooms had individual thermostats which could be programmed in each room.

Ventilation

Ventilation was predominantly provided by means of openable windows, doors. The care rooms benefitted from openable windows. All sanitary areas had either window or mechanical ventilation. Mechanical ventilation and air conditioning was available in the three sleep rooms. All windows were fitted with opening devices. Air conditioning was also available in all care rooms and sleep rooms.

(d)

The freshly painted walls, ceiling tiles and floors finished with a heavy-duty lino were well maintained. A cleaning store off the hallways on both floors provided a suitable location for storage of cleaning equipment and chemicals in a locked area inaccessible to preschool children. A suitable location for the storage of refuse and waste was provided at the side of the premises. The services of a pest control contract were confirmed.

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	<p>(e) Sanitary Facilities</p> <p>With the exclusion of the sanitary area off room 4 and 5, adequate and suitable sanitary areas were available for the children and adults in the service.</p> <p>A total of 3 nappy changing areas and 12 toilets and 14 sinks were available in 5 sanitary areas available for the children and located off their respective rooms. A further sink was available in each of the care rooms.</p> <p>One nappy changing unit and one sink was available off the Room 1 to accommodate the nine babies proposed to attend.</p> <p>Two nappy changing areas were available in the shared sanitary area off Room 2 and 3 to accommodate 20 children, aged 18 months to two and a half years proposed.</p> <p>Three toilets and three sinks were available off Rooms 4 and 5 to accommodate the proposed maximum of twenty children attending. It is proposed that 12 children aged 2-3 will be accommodated in Room 4</p> <p>In Rooms 6 and 7 two toilets and two sinks were available in each of their sanitary areas and a sink was also available in each of their care rooms.</p> <p>With the exception of point 4 below, thermostatically hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available in all rooms and sanitary areas.</p> <p>Three toilets and three sinks were available for staff members.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(e)1. The nappy changing areas provided in the sanitary areas off the shared sanitary accommodation for children attending rooms 4 and 5 were unsuitable if the children were not toilet trained.</p>

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	<p>One area consisted of a changing trolley which was situated between two toilet cubicles. It was too small for use for the intended the age group of children, and there was no area for the storage of supplies nearby.</p> <p>The second area consisted of a mat located beside the children’s sinks. The space provided was too small to allow a child of this age-group to comfortable lie down. There was no adult sink in this area also.</p> <p>The area was positioned near the entrance door into the sanitary area which would restrict the access for other children.</p> <p>2. Foot stools were needed for children to access the sinks in all rooms and sanitary areas off rooms 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p>3. The nappy bins provided were unsuitable as they did not provide a sufficient seal when closed.</p> <p>4. There was no dispenser for the paper towels provided in the sanitary area off Room1. This would increase the risk of cross infection.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>1. The sanitary changing area between room 4 and 5 has been rectified. The trolley has been removed. A new changing facility has been purpose built in replacement of the third toilet cubicle. The space allows for a separate area for changing that is not visible to others in the area and will not cause risk of cross contamination in the handwashing area. There are now two toilet cubicles and two children’s sinks. The third sink is now for adult handwashing only and a sign has been placed over the sink.</p> <p>2. Foot stools have been placed in all rooms to access the sinks and sanitary areas off rooms 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p>3. The white/red nappy bins have been removed from all changing rooms and new bins with sufficient seals have been installed.</p> <p>4. A dispenser for paper towels has been installed on the wall in the changing area in Room 1.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>Photographic evidence has been provided regarding points 1-4 above.</p>

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Note: the registered provider must ensure that there is sufficient toilets/ nappy changing areas in the sanitary area off Rooms 4 and 5. There must be nappy changing facility or toilets available for every 11 children in the rooms.

The requirements have been met in relation to Regulation 29.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.
- (4) 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 clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:

(1) The service has adequate clear floor space for the proposed number of 90 pre-school children to attend as outlined below.

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(2) It is proposed that all children attending Rooms 1 to 6 inclusive will attend on a full day care basis. Children attending Room 7 will attend on a sessional basis only. Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:

Room 1	Seomra Buí	Clear floor space	27 m ²
Room 2	Seomra Bán	Clear floor space	28.7 m ²
Room 3	Seomra Glas	Clear floor space	43 m ²
Room 4	Seomra Liath.	Clear floor space	41 m ²
Room 5	Seomra Rua	Clear floor space	42.5 m ²
Room 6	Seomra Corcra	Clear floor space	40 m ²
Room 7	Seomra Donn	Clear floor space	43 m ²

The total space available will allow for the proposed maximum of 90 pre-school children. The registered provider will ensure that adequate space will be provided for each pre-school child as specified in Schedule 7.

(4)(a)(b)

The required floor space for 90 pre-school children in the proposed age range, 9 months -6 years old, attending the service is met.