

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2024WW003		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Caireen Early Years Ltd		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Archers Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow		
<b>Eircode:</b>	A63 K308		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	William Mc Mickan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	23/10/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	32	PM 23
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Loughlinstown health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Mona Condon		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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		

### 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- 18.30 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 four rooms were open with pre-school children attending: namely, Seomra Bui, Seomra Glas, Seomra Rua on the ground floor and Seomra Liath on the first floor.

### Staffing

There are thirteen 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

As this was the first inspection following the opening of the service this was an announced inspection and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of the child. 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

(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 fifteen adults were present on inspection. They included twelve staff members, two agency staff, and a staff member who was employed as a chef. These fifteen files were reviewed on the day of the inspection.

(a)&(b) There were thirty written and validated references for fifteen staff members.

(c) Documentary evidence of processed Garda Vetting Disclosures was available for fifteen 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 nine 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 fourteen staff members who were employed to work 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.

### 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)  
Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children. There were 32 children attending the service being supervised by eleven 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 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

(1)(a)

#### Basic Needs of Infants and Children

- Healthy nutritious lunch and snacks in line with the healthy eating policy of the service were enjoyed by the children on the day of inspection. The children enjoyed beef stew and potatoe for their main meal which was prepared and cooked on site. Staff sat with the children during mealtimes assisting the younger children and engaging the older children in conversation and encouraging them to participate.
- Drinking water was available for the children throughout the day. Younger children's nappies were changed as required and good engagement in conversation with the children was noted during this time. Older children used the toilet independently and assistance given if required.
- Sleep was facilitated for the younger children in two dedicated cot rooms and on low beds in two of the care rooms. Children were soothed to sleep and monitored every 10 minutes while sleeping by staff.
- Each room had access to the outdoor area where age-appropriate toys and equipment was available.
- The staff were observed to be kind, caring and patient in their interactions with the children. It was noted that any child who became upset was quickly soothed and cared for by staff.

#### Supporting Relationships around Children

- The adults present were observed showing warmth and sensitivity towards all of the children in their care.
- It was noted that any child who became upset was quickly soothed by the staff present.
- There was evidence that the service worked in partnership with parents. It was stated that a verbal handover on the child's day occurred at collection time for each child. The service also communicated using alternative means such as the service electronic app, email, texting and phoning.

## Physical and Material Environment

- The play resources available to the children were accessible, organised and stored on low level shelving which allowed the children to select and replace items and materials of interest.
- There was an adequate amount of age-appropriate furniture and equipment available in the rooms. Equipment included Montessori equipment, construction, toy animals, puzzles and a library.
- There was evidence of the children's artwork on display in the rooms.
- A secure outdoor area with an artificial grass surface was located at the rear of the premises. Part of the area was covered so that it could be used in inclement weather. Play equipment available include bikes, climbing frame, slides, play-house and sand play.
- The playrooms were spacious and warm and laid out to meet the needs of the children. An ambient temperature of 18.5°C – 20°C was maintained in the care rooms and the sanitary areas.