

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK102
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Name of Service:	Leaping Frogs Childminding Service
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Address of Service:	Coolcappa, Ardagh, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V42 A072
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ann O'Donnell-Kelly
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date(s) of Inspection:	17/01/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	4
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary Houe, Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

This childminding service operates from the providers own dwelling house which is located in the countryside close to the village of Coolcappa, Co Limerick.

The registered childminder commenced the service in June 2010.

The service caters for pre-school children from 0 to 6 years from 07.30 to 18.00hrs for 49 weeks of the year.

The maximum number of pre-school children catered for any one time is 5.

The children have access to their own playroom, kitchen area, hallway, bathroom and sleeping facilities. The service has a large garden and paved area to the rear of the dwelling house.

Staffing

The childminder works each day in the service and there are 2 adult available to assist when required.

The childminder and the second person present on the day have completed a QQI level 6 qualification on the National Qualifications Framework document.

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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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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 registered provider, 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*

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(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 childminder was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available on site to deputise as required.

(b) The childminder left the service for a short period of time to collect 3 preschool children from 2 sessional services. The named person was present and available in the service while the childminder collected the children.

(2) The files of 3 adults were reviewed on the day .

(a) There were references from past employer available in respect of 2 adults.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, references from a source other than a previous employer were provided in respect of 1 adult.

(c) Garda Síochána vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider, the named person, and the emergency person.

(d) Not applicable as none of the adults had lived outside the jurisdiction.

(4) The childminder and the named person present on the day both held a level 6 qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

Compliance Information

(1) The childminder and a second adult were present supervising four pre-school children on the day of the inspection.

(8)(b) There was an additional adult within close proximity of the service, available to provide assistance in the event of an emergency.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 12 - Childminders

(1) A childminder shall ensure that-

(a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,

(b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and

(c) there is a working telephone on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1) (a) There were 4 pre-school children present on the day of the inspection which was in compliance with the adult/child ratio for childminders.

(b) There was no child under the age of 15 months.

(c) There was a working telephone on the premises.

(2) Not applicable as there were no siblings under of age of 15 months

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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-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

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Compliance Information

(1)

The service maintained an adequate record for each child attending the service, in accordance with Regulation 15(1) (a) to (i).

(3)

(a) Parents/guardians had access to all information and written records relating to their own child.

(b) Records were available to the authorised person in the service.

(c) Records were open and available for inspection to the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate.

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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-

(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:

A healthy eating policy was available in the service and all the food and drinks were provided by the childminder. Bolognese with pasta was served for dinner at 1300 hrs with a drink of milk when the children arrived from the sessional preschool service. A selection of fruit was available for snacks and drinking water was available also if required. The childminder sat with the children until all the children were finished their meal. Each child was given sufficient time to finish their food.

Personal care and nappy changing were carried out as required in a hygienic manner by the childminder.

The childminder was observed giving reminders to the children to support their personal care for example hand washing and tissue etiquette.

Children 2 years of age and under 2 years had access to traditional style cots for sleep and were checked at 10-minute intervals by the childminder.

The children had the freedom to move between the home and the outdoor play area.

Physical & Material Environment

The children had the use of a sitting room, the kitchen area, sanitary facilities and their own playroom.

The playroom had a plentiful supply of play equipment accessible to the children on shelving in the room. A couch was located in this room where the young children were able to rest and relax appropriately.

Reading books to support language development; blocks and other play materials to support imaginative and creative play ;pencils, paper and crayons for mark making activities and to develop fine motor skills were accessible to the children on shelves in their playroom.

Children had access to a large outdoor play area which was safe and secure at the rear of the service.

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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-

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

There were 2 cots in a designated bedroom available for children 2 years and under 2 years of age for sleep provision. Cellular blankets that allow air to circulate were used for all children under 2 years of age.

There was a safe sleep policy that detailed temperature, lighting, ventilation and child safety requirements as per the 'safe sleep for under 2's best practice guidelines for childcare services policy'. Sleeping children were monitored and a log was maintained.

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) Each pre-school child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by the childminder. This record was available on the attendance register.

(3)(a) The childminder ensured that no person other than the following were allowed enter the service.

(i) Pre-school child attending the service.

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- (ii) A person dropping or collecting such a child.
- (iii) An employee.
- (iv) An unpaid worker can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee.
- (b) A daily record in writing was kept of persons who entered the childminding service.

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 registered childminder and the second adult present were trained in first aid response for children and were at all times, immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2) A suitably equipped first aid box for children-
 - (a) Was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.
 - (b) Was available to the children attending the pre-school 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 firefighting 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) A record in writing was kept of fire drills that took place in the premises. The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis and the last recorded fire drill was the 15th of January 2024.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was available and was serviced in November 2023. The smoke alarm system maintenance record was available, and it was serviced in October 2023.
- (4) The fire drill procedure was displayed in the kitchen area.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available for the number of children who attended and had an expiry date of January 2025.