

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019CN002
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Name of service:	Karen's Childcare Services
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Address of service:	Corryorke Mullagh Co Cavan A82 HN79
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Name Of registered provider:	Ms Karen Osborne
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Type of service registered:	☒ Sessional ☐ Part-Time ☐ Drop-In ☐ Full Day Care ☐ Childminding ☒ Temporary
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Date of Inspection:	12/10/22
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Number of pre-school children present:	☒ AM 1 ☐ PM 4
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre Commons Road Navan Co. Meath
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Inspection undertaken by:	Deirdre Murray
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	Karens Childcare Service provides a home from home childminder service for children from 0 to 6 years and also caters for school aged children. A drop off and pick-up service is also provided to the local pre-school and school. The service operates from 07:30am to 18:30 pm. The rooms available to the children in the home included the kitchen, play room and sitting room with sanitary facilities. An outdoor space was available off the kitchen.
Staffing	On the day of inspection, the registered provider was present. An emergency person is available if needed.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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 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/ Premises and Facilities. Inspections 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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and the child who was 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 had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection and was present throughout the period of inspection.
- (2) (a)(b)(c)&(d) From discussion with the registered provider it was confirmed that the emergency person had remained the same. Both files were reviewed at the previous inspection and met regulatory compliance.
- (4) The registered provider held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications, 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.
- (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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. While 4 children are currently enrolled in the service, on the day of inspection 1 child was present attending on a full day care basis, while 2 children were attending a local sessional service. The 2 children were collected from the sessional service at 12:30 pm and remained in the childminders until 17:45pm. Two school aged children were also present from 2 to 5pm.

(8)(b) The registered provider ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance is, at all times, within close distance and available to attend the service to assist 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) According to the documentation available there are only 4 pre-school children in the care of the childminder at any given time.

(b) According to the documentation available there were no more than 1 child under the age of 15 months attending the childminding service.

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

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.
- (2) 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.

Compliance information

(1) Records in relation to a pre-school child as specified above 1(a) to (i) were compliant. Four enrolment records were inspected in respect of the children attending the childminding service.

(2) (a),(b) & (c) The registered provider confirmed that the children's records (enrolment forms) were open for inspection as required.

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.

Compliance information

(1)(a) The childminder was observed interacting with the child present with warmth and affection through being available, talking in soft tones and with smiling welcoming facial expressions. The child sought out the childminder with lots of babbling and the childminder was responsive to the child's cues both verbal and non-verbal. One to one attention was given with the child regularly lifted and cuddled. The child appeared confident and happy in the home from home environment.

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.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance information

(1)(b) In the Playroom there was a cosy area with a mat and cushions and in the sitting room there was a large couch for a child to rest if needed. Two cots were available in the sitting room with only 1 cot in use for the child under 2 years to sleep in.

(3)(a) There was a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space off the kitchen area. The outdoor space had a paved surface and was enclosed with walls and wooden fencing.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance information

The playroom had a range of toys and equipment such as home area, push along entertainer, wooden puzzles, nature tray, wooden shapes and blocks, battery operated toys, activity board, animal box, book rail beside cosy area and art and craft materials. Child size table and chairs were available for tabletop activities.

Equipment in the outdoor area included a mud kitchen, plastic playhouse, rocker, gutters on the fence for pouring and a slide and swing. A storage shed contained ride on tricycles, push along toys, dolls house and plastic building blocks.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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.

Compliance information

The registered provider provides all the food to the children. On arrival the children can have a choice of cereals if required followed by a snack around 11am which may vary from yogurts, rusks, fruit to scrambled eggs. At 1pm when the sessional children return a snack consisting of sandwiches, fruit, yogurts and cheese slices is provided. Dinner is served at 4pm which on the day of inspection consisted of beef stew, mash potatoes and carrots. The parents are notified on a daily basis of the snacks and main meal provided. Water and milk were accessible for the children as required throughout the day.

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 following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- The front door to the house was secured with a buzzer system to ensure that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised entry to the house.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The highchair in use had a 3-way harness to ensure safety.
- All sharp items and electrical equipment in the kitchen area were placed out of reach.

Infection control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- The service was visibly clean with daily cleaning schedules maintained.
- Protective equipment e.g. aprons and gloves were provided for nappy changing.
- Liquid soap, hand paper towel and warm water not exceeding 43°C was available in the sanitary facilities.

Safe sleep:

Safe sleep practices were demonstrated by the following examples:

- A Sleep log was available to record 10 minutes sleep checks.
- The sitting room had curtains which could be pulled which created an atmosphere conducive to sleep.

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 provider had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

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.	
Compliance information	(1)(a) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 19/09/22. (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced in December 2021. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises.