

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2025FL005
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Charlie's Childcare Rush
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	15 Mariners Drive, Mariners Way, Rush, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	K56 K797
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ronnie Carroll
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	12/11/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	17
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne, E Hosford
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable.
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### Description of service

Charlies Childcare is a purpose built creche facility located in a residential area of Rush, Co Dublin. The service is one of eight privately owned services operated by the registered provider. The service provides full day care to children aged from 1 to 6 years of age and operates from 7:30am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday. The premises is purposely built and consists of four care rooms, a cot room, sanitary accommodation, kitchen and a staff room.

The four care rooms are as follows.

- Wobblers room (1-2 years for children attending on a full day care basis).
- Toddlers room (2-3 years for children attending on a full day care basis)
- Preschool room (3 - 5 years for children attending on a full day care basis)
- Montessori room (3 – 5 years for children attending on a full day care basis)

There is an outdoor play area to the rear of the building.

### Staffing

The service employs a total of 14 staff to include the registered provider, an area manager, designated person in charge, deputy designated person in charge, assistant manager, a cook, and 8 childcare staff. The registered provider does not work within the service and the designated person in charge and the deputy person in charge are not assigned to a care room but are available to assist if required.

### 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 announced and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 and 19 however, on inspection additional non-compliances which posed a risk were identified under Regulation 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 Health Welfare and Development of the child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler room, Toddler room and Preschool room. The Montessori room was closed on the day of inspection.

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 area manager, 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) The service had a designated person in charge and deputy person in charge, both of whom were present in the service when the inspectors arrived announced and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.
  - (b) A review of the roster showed that a designated person in charge or deputy person in charge was on the premises at all times.
  - (c) A clear management structure was evident in the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

(2) The files of 13 staff members employed in the service were reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures for 14 staff were reviewed.

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

- (a) Sixteen validated written references were available from a past employer.
- (b) Ten validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 14 staff members employed in the service. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed
- (d) Police vetting was available for 8 staff members from 5 countries who had resided outside the state for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Thirteen staff members who work directly with the early years children had documentary evidence of at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

### 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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
  - (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) During the inspection there was adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the preschool service. There were 8 adults working directly with 20 children aged between 1 to 6 years in the morning and 7 adults working with 17 children in the afternoon.
- (2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as follows:

- Wobbler room- 3 adults working with 4 children aged from 1-2 years of age in the morning and 2 adults working with 2 children in the afternoon.
- Toddler room-2 adults working with 8 children aged from 2-3 years of age in the morning and 7 children in the afternoon.
- Preschool 1 room- 3 adults working with 8 children aged from 3-5 years of age in the morning and in the afternoon.

The person in charge and deputy person in charge, were available in a supernumerary capacity and covered in rooms as required.

(8)(a) The registered providers ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, as evidenced in staff rosters maintained in the service.

### 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

##### Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service with children enjoying a morning snack at 10.00am which consisted of fruit and crackers. At 11.15am a hot meal, supplied from an external catering company prepared in the service kitchen, of honey chicken with rice was served to the children. An alternative of tomato pasta was offered and additional food was available to the children. An afternoon snack was served at 2.00pm and tea is served at 3.00pm.
- Water was served to drink with each snack and meal.
- The children were observed using the toilet under supervision, with the assistance provided by a staff member when necessary.
- Children were observed moving freely within the care room and outdoor area and taking a break from activities and relaxing in a rest area when required.

##### Supporting relationships

- Staff members were observed to be kind in their interactions with the children.

- Children were happy and confident in their care environments.
- Staff members supported each other in the provision of care to the children.
- Communication with parents is through an electronic application.

### Physical and Material Environment

- In the Toddler room, the materials and equipment provided to the children in the room was suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment available to them.
- Low level shelving and child sized furniture supported children's independence.
- Family trees and Birthday walls were present and displayed at the children's level, giving a sense of identity and belonging to the children.
- Cosy areas were present with books accessible offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The outdoor play environment to the rear of the premises was fully enclosed, the surface of which was soft artificial surface. The outdoor toys were suitable and available and included a slide, two outdoor play kitchens with supporting equipment, see saws, balance bikes and trikes in boxes for water play.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Basic Needs:

1. In the Toddler room, the transition from dinner time at 11.36am and to sleep time at 12.00pm was not managed calmly or in an organised manner with staff not providing the children with clear and concise instructions. For example:
  - The alternative meal of tomato pasta was not presented to the children until 11.40am when the children had all finished eating and moved to the rest area. As a result of this delay it caused upset and disorganisation in the room which resulted in children running around the room, throwing balls and one child upturning a full box of toys onto the floor.
  - At 11.56am, two children were jumping on the made-up beds and running back and forth towards the wall.

#### Physical Environment:

2. The layout and materials available in the Wobbler room did not promote a child led, engaging and explorative environment for the children. For example:

- The table and chairs in the care room were not made available for tabletop activities between meals.
  - Play materials and equipment were stored in eight large clear plastic boxes, which were visually good but too large for a 1- to 2-year-old to physically lift or move to access the toys present independently.
  - storage of jigsaws in a large box with loose jigsaw pieces
3. The layout and materials available in the Preschool room did not promote a child led, engaging and explorative environment for the children. For example:
- Supportive equipment for dolls house and additional play props for a boat and car were not stored close by for easy access for play.
  - Home corner play equipment was not stored together in one area in the care room
  - An area for art and crafts was not identifiable; it is acknowledged that an art trolley was present in the room but in a standalone position.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

##### **Basic Needs:**

1. Alternative meal to be brought out with all meals at the designated time. Dinner time to be brought forward to 11:15am this will give a smoother and longer transition from dinner time to sleep time. The service has changed the mealtimes to ensure children have more time before sleep. A relaxed and controlled routine around bedtime with a smooth transition.

##### **Physical Environment:**

The Service have implemented the following changes to enhance the children's learning environment and daily routine:

2. Tables and chairs have been made accessible to children throughout the whole day. "Top table" activities are now introduced daily between mealtimes.  
The service replaced the large clear storage boxes with small, easily accessible baskets for the wobbler age group.  
Jigsaws were removed from their boxes and are now stored neatly in a drawer.  
The manager will be responsible for ensuring and promoting "top table" activities and ensuring that all staff members are fully aware of these activities throughout the daily routine
3. All supportive equipment now in the one area and assessable for children for easy access play. The home corner was moved, and everything is in the one Dedicated area.

Art Trolley has been relocated and is now positioned next to the childrens table and chairs. Managers will ensure that areas are kept accessible and stored together for the children to ensure easy access play.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic Evidence

### **Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 19, has been adequately addressed

### **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.*

### **Non-Compliance Information**

#### **General Safety:**

1. The wooden entrance and exit gate of the outdoor play area was not securely locked as the bolt lock could not be securely fastened due to the expansion of the wood at the bottom of the gate. At 11.14am, when outdoor play was over, one child was observed to push open the gate and run into the side passage of the service towards the toddler room door. It is acknowledged that the gate at the end of the side passage to exit the service was secure.
2. A waste bin and broken bike were present and accessible in the side passage of the service which was the main route from the outdoor play area for outdoor play to the Toddler room.
3. Shelving in the service was observed to be too high leading to a risk of injury, as follows:
  - first aid boxes were stored on high shelves whereby they were not accessible to all staff in the event of an emergency
  - in the Wobbler room childrens belongings were stored in boxes on high shelves.
4. Adequate Visibility strips are not present on the doors and windows of the Wobbler room leading to a risk of injury.

#### **Infection Control:**

5. Water drink cups and bottles were accessible to all Wobbler room children, one child was observed to drink from a number of the cups, leading to a risk of cross infection.

### **Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

## Corrective & Preventive Action

### General Safety:

1. The wooden gate has been fully repaired by the maintenance team. Daily risk assessments carried out by the staff and management.
2. The waste bin and broken bike have been removed from the centre. The service will remove any broken equipment immediately from the creche. Management to keep the side garden clear at all times.
3. Shelving in all rooms has been lowered to a safe and accessible height for all staff. The service have taken into consideration that the shelving in the classroom needs to be installed at a safe height and easily reachable for all staff.
4. More visibility stickers have been purchased and placed on the lower window in the Wobbler room. The service to ensure that the window stickers are placed along the entire length of the window. This is to ensure visibility to children of all ages

### Infection Control:

5. Staff must observe all children when drinking from the bottles and immediately wash any bottle if cross-contamination or cross-infection is suspected. Staff will supervise and assist children with drinking, kindly encourage and help them identify which water bottle belongs to them

## Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic Evidence.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23, has been adequately addressed