

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025MH002
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Name of Service:	Maap Childcare Cluain Adain
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Address of Service:	Cluain Adain, Clonmagadden, Navan, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	C15 CXF9
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Name of Registered Provider:	Annette Akerlind, Audrey Murray
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	03/12/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	50	PM	39
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	D.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

Maap Childcare Cluain Adain provides full time, part-time and sessional care and education to children from 0 to 6 years. A school aged service is also provided. The service operates from 7:00am to 6:30 pm and eligible children can participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE). The service is a purpose-built single storey building consisting of 5 care rooms:

Baby room facilitates the care of children from 0 to 1.6years.

Wobbler room accommodates children from 1.6 to 2.6 years.

Toddler room provides care to children from 2.6 to 3.6 years

ECCE /School age room provides care and education to children from 2.8 to 5 years. This room accommodates school aged children in the afternoons

Pre-school Full Day Care room provides care and education to children from 2.8 to 5 years.

Other facilities in the service include kitchen, staff room, office, staff and children's sanitary accommodation, laundry room and storage room. An outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

Employed to work in the service were a manager, assistant manager, 17 childcare staff, 1 childcare /school aged staff member and a cook. Present on the morning of inspection were the manager, assistant manager, 14 childcare staff and a cook. An operations manager was present to provide support during the inspection.

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/unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. 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 manager, assistant manager, operations manager, 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.

(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) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) Twenty-one staff files were reviewed.

(a)&(b) Forty-two validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for 21 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's were available for 13 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above 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.

(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) On the morning of the inspection there was the operations manager, manager, assistant manager and 14 childcare staff working directly with the 50 pre-school children attending the service.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at capacity on the day of inspection:

Baby room had 9 children ranging in age from 7 months to 1.6 years being cared for by 3 adults. All children were attending on a full day care basis.

Wobbler room had 8 children ranging in age from 1.6 to 2.6 years being cared for by 3 adults. All children were attending on a full day care basis.

Toddler room had 10 children ranging in age from 2.6 years to 3.6 years being cared for by 2 adults. All children were attending on a full day care basis.

ECCE/School aged room had 8 children ranging in age from 2.8 to 5 years being cared for by 1 adult. All children were attending the ECCE sessional service from 09:15am to 12:15pm.

Preschool room full day care had 15 children ranging in age from 2.8 to 5 years being cared for by 2 adults. Three children were attending the ECCE sessional service from 09:15am to 12:15pm. Eleven children were attending on

a full day care basis. There were 3 relief childcare staff members available to provide support to the rooms as needed. One childcare staff member commenced duty at 12:30pm.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster 2 adults were present on the premises 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) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- The staff in the service were observed to provide kind, caring and nurturing interactions to the children in their care. Staff used age-appropriate language, gentle tones of voice and spoke to younger children at the child's level. Staff in the Baby and Wobbler rooms were observed spending time on the floor playing with the younger children. An adult chair was available in the Baby room for nurturing and comforting a child. Any child who became upset were nurtured and cuddled until they were ready to re-join the group.
- Children's individual needs were met with additional care and attention. Sleep was child led with the children in the Baby and Wobbler rooms being put down to sleep as needed. The remainder of the children availed of sleep after dinner at 12md. Each care room had adequate areas within the room where children could rest with soft furnishings, cushion and soft toys available.
- Children's nappies were changed regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions during direct care. Staff members were responsive to the children's cues should they need to use the toilet, with discreet supervision provided and assistance given if required.
- Children were observed being allowed to self-direct their own play. The children were afforded the opportunity to choose activities and to follow through on their choices and change activities if they so wish.
- All children were observed enjoying outdoor play with both their peers and staff members.

- Mealtimes in the service were observed to be a social and pleasant experience for the children. Staff sat at the table whilst the children ate engaging them in conversation and provided assistance to the children with eating as they required it.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff were observed to communicate together respectfully throughout the inspection to support continuity of care of the children. The staff spoke about children in positive ways and demonstrated their knowledge and understanding about children's personalities and needs in conversation with the inspector.
- The theme of the month was "Christmas" with children's art work displayed on the walls in the care rooms. This visual representation of children and value of their work supports children to feel a sense of identity and belonging in their care environments.
- The service showed a positive regard towards working in partnership with families. An electronic device was used on a daily basis to keep parents informed of daily activities. Verbal feedback is also provided to parents/guardians on a daily basis.