

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE102
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Name of Service:	Mother Goose Creche
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Address of Service:	Clonfadda, Killaloe, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V94 YP63
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Name of Registered Provider:	Catriona Devereux
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	24
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare
Inspection undertaken by:	J Hayes & A McCarthy
Title:	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).

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Conditions if applicable

Condition attached against Regulation 9 (Management and Recruitment) This condition requires that the Registered Provider must-ensure 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

Description of service

Mother Goose Creche was established in 2000, as a private childcare facility in Killaloe, County Clare. A programme of care is facilitated on a sessional, part time and full day care basis, Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 17:30. During the inspection four care rooms were in operation. The rooms included the Toddler room 1 (age range: 2 to 3 years), Toddler room 2 (age range 18 months to 2 years) the Junior ECCE room (age range: 3 to 4 years) and the Senior ECCE room (age range: 4 to 5 years).

A school aged childcare service is in operation every afternoon during school term and full-time during school holidays. The outdoor play area is divided into two sections and is located at the back and side of the premises.

Staffing

Eighteen adults are employed by the service. On 23 February 2026 eight adults worked directly with the pre-school children in attendance. Two chefs job share each week and prepare, cook and serve the meals. The manager provided an administrative role during the inspection. The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection. An adult was available to provide relief cover in care rooms during break time and busy periods.

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:

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- 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. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)(7)(a)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 16-Record in relation to pre-school service (1)(i)(k)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 26 – Fire safety measures

Regulation 29 - Premises

Regulation 31-Notification of incidents

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.

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Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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.

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Compliance Information

(1)(a)

On the 23 February 2026 the manager was the person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The manager and a named person to deputise were available at all times during the inspection.

(2)

Eighteen files were reviewed in respect of the adults employed by the service.

(a)

Twenty-seven references with evidence of validation were sourced from a past employer.

(b)

Nine references with evidence of validation were obtained from sources other than past employers.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

International police vetting was available in respect of two adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

All adults who required a childcare qualification when working directly with the pre-school children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications from Level 5 to Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

International police vetting was not available in respect of one adult working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The International Police vetting certificate for the adult has been obtained. New staff induction check list books have been ordered to ensure the requirement for police vetting for any new staff members is not missed going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

The outstanding International Police vetting certificate.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance in relation to Regulation 9(2)(d) has been addressed.

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)
An adequate number of adults were working with the children on the day of inspection.
- (2)
The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to.
On 23 February 2026 eight adults worked directly with 28 children in the morning, and six adults worked with 24 children in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster indicated that at least two adults were available in the service during the hours of operation.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(i)

The staff roster accounted for all the adults that were employed by the service and recorded relief cover for adult absences.

(k)

Twelve accident, injury and incident records for 2026 in relation to children attending the service were reviewed on the childcare application device. All twelve records reviewed were completed in full and each contained a parental signature following the incident.

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)

Basic Needs of Children:

The adults treated the children in a caring manner in the four care rooms in operation. The adults responded to the children's cues for assistance, to be held and to be hugged. The adults demonstrated an understanding of the children's individual preferences and capabilities.

The children's nappies were changed on an individual need's basis, and the adults carried out these procedures in a sensitive manner. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate

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to their age and level of development. The older children were encouraged to be independent while caring for their personal belongings, using the toilet, participation in tasks and tidy up time.

The children's cues for sleep were responded to in a prompt and calm manner, and the children who did not require sleep joined children in another care room for play based activities.

Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable period whereby the children and adults conversed amicably. Suitable age-appropriate crockery and feeding utensils were provided during mealtime. Food was prepared, cooked and served by the kitchen staff. The meals provided included chicken and pasta bake, fresh fruit and ham and cheese sandwiches. Additional food was provided to children when required. Water was freely available and accessible for the children in all the care rooms.

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 service ensured that a nutritious variety of food was offered to the children in attendance. A healthy eating policy and a fortnightly menu plan was available to inform the adults working in the service and shared with parents/guardians. Children were offered breakfast on arrival to the service. The service provided a mid-morning snack of various fruit. The service provided a hot meal of chicken and pasta bake for dinner. A snack of ham and cheese sandwiches and fruit was offered in each room in the afternoon. Water was available during mealtime and accessible to the children in each care room 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 service was secured to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the premises and to prevent unauthorised adults gaining access.
- The outdoor play areas were secured with fencing and gates to protect the children within.

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- The children's arrival and departure times were recorded on the childcare application device.
- A book was available to record visitors to the service.
- Medication was stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.
- All blind cords in the service were secured.

Infection Control:

- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals to include after messy play, using the toilet and before mealtime.
- The children's and adult's sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined and pedal operated bins.
- The children's bedlinen and personal care items were labelled and stored individually.
- The children's soothers were stored in individually labelled containers.

Safe Sleep:

- The adults demonstrated an awareness of the service's safe sleep policy.
- Children were placed to sleep in their individual low-level beds.
- A thermometer was available in the care room where children were placed to sleep for the adults to measure and monitor the room temperatures. The room temperatures were maintained between the required temperature of 18-22°Celsius.
- The adults recorded the sleeping children's observations every ten minutes during sleep periods on a written record.
- The adults remained in the care room with the children as they slept.

Fire Safety:

- Records of completed monthly fire drills are available in the service.
- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service.
- The fire assembly point and the fire exit route signage were readily identifiable and known to the adults working in the service.

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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 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)

Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place in January 2026.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place respectively on the 14 November 2025 and 03 December 2025.

(4)

A fire action notice was displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
 - (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(e)

The premises was equipped with an adequate number of sanitary facilities for the adults and children attending. Four toilets and four wash hand basins were available for the toilet trained children. Two nappy changing mats with adjacent wash hand basins were available for the children who required nappy changing. Two toilets and wash hand basins were available for the adults working in the service. All sanitary facilities were sufficiently equipped with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.

Non-Compliance Information

(d)

The premises was not maintained in a clean condition as the following was observed;

1. Brown staining in the wash hand basins in the children's sanitary facilities.
2. Dirt and dust on skirting boards in the hallways and the care rooms.
3. Peeling paint and stains of dampness on the ceiling in the hallway leading to the pre-school room.
4. Cobwebs and spiders on the ceiling in the Toddler room and the sanitary facilities.
5. A toilet brush and holder with brown staining which was located on the floor and accessible to children in the children's sanitary facility next to the pre-school room.
6. A large amount of dust which clogged the vent for the mechanical extractor fan in the adult sanitary accommodation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. All sinks have been descaled and sanitised. A structured daily and weekly cleaning checklist has been implemented for all care rooms, hallways and sanitary facilities. Educators are responsible for completing and signing the checklist to ensure hygiene standards have consistently been maintained.
2. A deep clean of all the care rooms and hallways has been carried out. The care rooms have just been repainted. A monthly centre inspection by management will be carried out to monitor cleanliness, maintenance issues and any issues identified will be recorded in the maintenance log and addressed immediately.
- 3 The ceiling in the hallway to the pre-school room has been cleaned and repaired and painted. A preventative maintenance schedule has been introduced to regularly check ceilings, ventilation, paintwork and building areas to ensure they remain in good repair.
4. All cobwebs and spiders and been removed from the toddler room and sanitary facilities. All staff have been reminded of hygiene and sanitation procedures during a staff meeting and will continue to follow our cleaning and infection control policies.
5. Toilet brush has been removed and replaced with a new one. Bathrooms will be inspected weekly by management to ensure they are hygienic and bathroom equipment will be replaced when needed.
6. The vent in the adult sanitary facility has been cleaned. The service will maintain documentation including cleaning checklists, bathroom cleaning records and maintenance logs to ensure ongoing monitoring.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary and photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The actions taken have addressed the non-compliance in relation to Regulation 29(d).

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

- (a) the death of a pre-school child while attending the service, including the death of a child in hospital following his or her transfer to hospital from the service;*
- (b) the diagnosis of a pre-school child attending the service, an employee, unpaid worker, contractor or other person working in the service as suffering from an infectious disease within the meaning of the Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981 (S.I. No. 390 of 1981);*
- (c) an incident that occurs in the service and that results in the service being closed for any length of time;*
- (d) a serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner whether in a hospital or otherwise;*
- (e) an incident in respect of which a pre-school child attending the service goes missing while attending the service.*

Compliance Information

The service manager stated that a notifiable incident had not occurred in the service since the last inspection. The adults in the service were familiar with the requirement to notify the Early years Inspectorate in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the incidents as outlined (a) to (e) occurring in the preschool service.