

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL058
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Name of Service:	Charlie's Childcare
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Address of Service:	Presbyterian Church Hall, Dublin Road, Malahide, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K36 PE80
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ronnie Carroll
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	09/06/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford
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

Charlie's Childcare is a privately owned Early Years Service which operates from a hall to the rear of the Presbyterian church in Malahide village and consists of one care room, sanitary area and an outdoor space to the side of the church. The service provides part time preschool care and education to children from 2 years 6 months until they commence attendance at primary school. The service is registered to operate from 8.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday but is currently operating from 9.00am-12.30pm Monday to Thursday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) scheme.

Staffing

The service employs two staff members who work directly with the children attending. The registered provider does not work directly with the children attending the service. An area manager facilitated 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 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23,25 and 26.

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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 area manager, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Compliance Information

(1) The service confirmed that they were aware of the requirement to inform the inspectorate of any changes that occurred within the service.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2) The staff file of the new staff member employed in the service since the last inspection and the files of two external contractors present in the service providing physical education to the children were reviewed.

(a) The following references were from a past employer.

- One validated written reference for the new staff member and two external contractors.

(b) The following references were from a source other than past employer.

- One validated written reference for the new staff member and two external contractors.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for area manager, two staff members and two external contractors.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for the new staff member who had lived outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

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(4) On review of documentation available one staff member did not have documentation available to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(4) In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that the service is closing as of the 11th July 2025, therefore we have no corrective action to put in place.

We will ensure all staff working directly with children will hold a minimum QQI Level 5 qualification.

Supporting documentation submitted

(4) Cessation notification of service.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has submitted a cessation notice for the service which indicates that the service will close from the 10 July 2025.

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.

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Compliance Information

- (1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on the day of the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection. There were two adults working directly with 8 children aged 3 to 5 years of age on the day of inspection.
- (8)(a) On discussion with staff it was confirmed that two 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

Basic Needs:

- The staff members were observed to be kind and attentive in their interactions with the children and the atmosphere in the service was warm and child centred.
- Healthy eating was promoted within the service with staff working with parents and children to encourage healthy packed lunches. Drinking water was freely available to the children throughout the session. The staff members sat with the children at snack time encouraging conversations and extending interactions.
- The children were observed using the toilet under supervision, with assistance provided by the staff member when necessary.
- Children were observed moving freely within the care room and taking a break from activities and relaxing in a rest area in the care room which was equipped with soft matting and books.

Physical Environment:

- The care room was resourced with a range of equipment, toys and materials to support the children's independent thinking and extend their learning and natural curiosity.

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- All equipment and materials in the care room were appropriate to the age and development of the children with toys and play materials accessible.
- An outdoor area was available to the side of the service and was equipped with games to include slides, moveable see saws, balls and large blocks. A grass area was provided to enable the children to run and play games.

Supporting Relationships:

- The staff members demonstrated sensitivity and responsiveness to each child's individual needs, likes and preferences, and initiated conversations with the children, responded to their verbal and non-verbal cues and provided regular praise and encouragement using a gentle tone of voice.
- Activities were observed to be child-centred and flexible while supporting each child's play experiences and interests. Time was given to each child to sit and enjoy their snack while their friends played with activities.
- Parents and guardians were communicated with at drop off and collection and via an electronic application, which the staff members could also use to share information about the children and the activities undertaken during the day.
- Staff were observed working well together in supporting the children and transitioning from activities such as outdoor play and snack time.

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 main entrance to the service was closely monitored by staff who granted access by a key which was stored out of reach of children.
- The care rooms were observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents and sharp implements out of children's reach.
- The premises and outdoor play area were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- Staff maintained the arrival and departure of each child to the service on an electronic application.

Infection Control:

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- Adequate hand washing facilities were available in the sanitary facilities used by the children, these included warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins.
Children were observed to wash their hands before snack time with the assistance of staff.
- Children's perishable food from home was refrigerated on arrival to the service and staff were observed cleaning the tables before and after snack.
- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules in operation within the care rooms and sanitary facilities. The care room and sanitary facility had open windows to maintain air circulation.

Fire Safety:

- Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed in the service. All fire equipment to include fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were serviced yearly.
- The designated fire exit was illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection.

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 ensured that a staff member who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training in first aid for children was always available to the children attending the service with an expiry date of 13 December 2026.

(2)

(a) and (b) A first aid box was available in the service and suitably equipped and accessible to the adults responsible for caring for the children attending 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)
- The last recorded fire drills that took place in the service was the 12 May 2025.
- (b)
- The number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was present in the service, the fire extinguishers were serviced on the 27 August 2024 and the smoke alarms on the 20 May 2025.
- (4)
- A notice of the fire procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency were clearly displayed in the care rooms