

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK043
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Name of Service:	Children Of Lir
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Address of Service:	Aghalacka, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 FP7K
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Name of Registered Provider:	Bernadette Carrig
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	06/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan
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

Children of Lír is a private, sessional pre-school service located in a rural area near Askeaton, Co. Limerick. It operates Monday to Friday, offering a morning session from 9am to 12md. The service is based in the provider's home, with an outdoor area used during favourable weather. A sheltered patio next to the garden is available for dining and tabletop activities, with shaded areas for protection in bad weather. Sanitary facilities are accessible within the home for the children.

Staffing

The registered provider is the sole operator of the service. A person to call on in the event of an emergency is available if required. The registered provider achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 and health, welfare and development of the child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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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 registered provider 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*

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(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 registered provider was present on the day of the inspection. There was a person available to call on in the event of an emergency.
- (b) The staff roster indicated that the registered provider was always available on the premises during the operational hours of the service.
- (2)(a) Two written references were available for the registered provider and for the person who could be called on in the event of an emergency.
- (b) All references on file were from previous employers or from reputable sources.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the registered provider and for the person who could be called on in the event of an emergency. The disclosures were dated within the last 3 years.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (4) The registered provider held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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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)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that at all times there was the correct number of adults working with the number of children present.
- (2) There were 4 preschool children with 1 adult attending the morning sessional service. This met the requirements of Regulation 11.
- (8)(c) The registered provider ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to her, was at all times, within close distance and available to attend the service to assist in the event of an emergency.

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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 children's basic needs were carefully considered in the daily activities. A healthy eating policy was in place, with parents providing healthy snacks and drinks. A dining table and chairs were available on the patio for mealtimes. Toilets, located in the provider's home near the outdoor areas, were easily accessible. Spare clothes, tissues, wipes, and proper waste disposal (foot pedal bins) were available at all times. Large soft seating was provided both indoors and on the patio for children to rest if needed. As the weather was bad on the day of the inspection the registered provider and the children were engaged in art and craft activities indoors. The atmosphere was calm, and children were happily engaged and chatting while completing their paintings.

Physical and Material Environment:

Children spend much of their day in a well-designed outdoor play area behind the premises, which offered diverse spaces for play and learning. The area included a mud kitchen, gardening spaces, gravel and sand pits for digging and planting, swings, slide, obstacle courses, picnic areas, and lots of space for ball games. A cement yard accommodated space to use ride-on cars and bikes. An outdoor sink was also available for handwashing. A shed outdoors was available for safe storage of all play materials.