

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK043
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Children Of Lir
-------------------------	-----------------

Address of Service:	Aghalacka, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
----------------------------	-----------------------------------

Eircode:	V94 FP7K
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Bernadette Carrig
-------------------------------------	-------------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	22/09/2023
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

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
---------------------------------	----------------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Children of Lír is a private sessional pre-school service. The service is located in a rural setting, not far from the town of Askeaton in Co. Limerick. It offers a morning sessional service from 9am to 12md each day, Monday to Friday. The Pre-school operates from the registered providers home premises. In favourable weather conditions the service operates from a large outdoor area at the rear of the premises. A covered and sheltered patio area next to the garden is available to the children for dining and for table top activities. There are many shaded areas available throughout the garden to protect the children in poor weather conditions. Sanitary accommodation is accessible in the registered providers home which is easily accessible to the children.

Staffing

The registered provider is the sole operator of the service. A relief person is available if required. Both persons have 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/ 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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider was present on the day of the inspection. There was a person available to deputise if needed.

(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 relief person.

(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 those residing in the home where the service operated from.

(d) Not applicable.

(4) The registered provider and the person who could deputise in her absence held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 9 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 the person in charge, was at all times, within close distance and available to attend the service to assist in the event of an emergency.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) Each of the children's registration forms were viewed. The service had a record in writing containing the following particulars documented on the form:
- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
 - (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
 - (c) Provision to record the date on which the child ceased to attend the service.
 - (d) The name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian of the child could be contacted during the hours of operation of the service.
 - (e) Authorisation for the collection of the child.
 - (f) Details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention. Detailed information to help the service provider to get to know the child well were also included.
 - (g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
 - (h) record of immunisations received by the child.
 - (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge at the service.
- (b) Details of the type of service in operation and the age profile of children for which the facility is registered to provide services.
- (c) Details of the adult: child ratios in the service.
- (d) The type of care or programme provided in the service.
- (e) The facilities available.
- (f) The opening hours and fees.
- (g) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily.
- (i) Rosters were maintained on a daily basis and available for inspection. These correlated with the numbers that were present on the day of inspection.
- (j) The service had a medication administration record template available that could be used in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered at the service.
- (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending 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:

The children's basic needs were taken into consideration when planning the day-to-day activities at the service.

There was a healthy eating policy in place. The parents supplied healthy snacks and drinks for the pre-school children. A dining table and chairs was available on the patio area to facilitate dining at break times.

Children had unrestricted access to the toilets located in the provider's home adjacent to the outdoor areas. A change of clothes was available for all children if needed. Tissues and wipes were accessible at all times to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in foot pedal, operated lidded bins. An outdoor wash hand basin was located inside the entrance gate to the premises and an area was available outside for children to change into their outdoor clothing when they arrived at the service.

Large soft seating was available on the patio and in the indoors preschool room for children if they were tired and needed time to rest.

The registered provider and the children visited the local library on the day of the inspection. Parents attended also on the day to ensure proper supervision was available on the outing.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Children spend most of each day in the outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. The outdoors was well designed with lots of outdoor spaces to facilitate all types of play and learning. Mud kitchens with old pots and pans provided an imaginative play area. Gardening, planting areas, gravel and sand pits provided opportunity for planting, digging and shovelling. Timber logs were used as balance blocks. An outdoor timber shed provided shelter outside for tabletop activities if needed. Swings, slides, picnic areas, goal posts, basketball nets were also available outside. A cement yard provided space for using lots of ride on cars and bikes. An outdoor sink was accessible for regular handwashing outside. As seasons changed the outside area evolved providing lots of opportunities to learn from risk and challenge their capabilities within safe limits.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available on the day of the inspection which stated that 11 children were covered by the policy. The commencement date of insurance was the 1st of September 2023 and the expiry date of insurance was the 27th of March 2024.