

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO076
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Name of Service:	Louisburgh Childcare CLG.
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Address of Service:	Cairde Caher, Ard Caher, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F28 HE27
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Name of Registered Provider:	Barbara Daly
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	30
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency Unit 2, First Floor, Loughrea Shopping Centre, Athenry Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway. H62 XR82
Inspection undertaken by:	B Lavin
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).

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Description of service

Louisburgh Childcare CLG. is a non-profit purpose-built community owned and operated childcare facility. The service is registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional childcare services to children aged from one to six years of age between 08:30 and 17:30 hours. There are two large care-rooms in the service, a separate sleep room and sanitary facilities. The children have access to two enclosed outdoor play areas to the rear and side of the premises.

Staffing

There are 14 staff working in the service, including an office-based administrator. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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

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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 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.*

(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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

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(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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the person in charge was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.
- (2) Following a review of the service files and discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that there were 14 members of staff employed in the service.
- (a) There were 24 written and appropriately validated references available from a previous employer.
- (b) There were four written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than a previous employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 14 staff. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting disclosure was available for eight adults working in the service as they had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out completely before staff members were appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) Thirteen staff working directly with the children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8 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)-*
- (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 attending the preschool service.
There were 9 adults working directly with children on the day of inspection. In addition, the person in charge provided cover for breaks.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were provided on the morning of inspection in accordance with the required ratios considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:
- Creche room: Four adults cared for 15 children aged between 1 and 2 years of age.
 - Preschool room: Five adults cared for 28 children aged between 3 and 5 years of age.

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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

(1)(a)

- Drinking water was available on low tables in each playroom to all children throughout the day.
- In the morning a snack was provided from home which consisted of yogurts, crackers, cheese and sandwiches.
- The main meal of salmon, mashed potatoes, vegetables and gravy was served at 12pm.
- Care and attention were taken during mealtimes to eat at the child's pace and staff encouraged and supported children to feed themselves independently according to their age and stage of development.
- The staff were observed sitting at the child's level and chatted in a respectful manner during meal and snack times.
- The privacy and dignity of each child was respected during toileting practices.
- Staff responded to each child's individual needs and children's nappies were changed in a timely manner.
- Appropriate rest facilities were available in the care rooms and children were observed spending time in these areas for short periods of rest throughout the day.
- The children's nap and sleep times were tailored to each child's individual needs.
- The children had easy access to the outside areas throughout the day. Children moved freely between indoors and outdoors. In the preschool room the children spent considerable time outdoors in the well-equipped outdoor play areas on the day of inspection.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.
- The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours and supported children to find positive solutions to sharing toys, equipment and turn taking.
- The adults working with the children created a positive atmosphere, having frequent social conversations, joint laughter and showing affection.

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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.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Food provision in the service consisted of one hot meal provided by the service and snacks provided from home. This provision is insufficient to meet the needs of the preschool children as outlined in the recommended guidance of the provision of two meals and two snacks for preschool children in a full day care service.
2. An alternative meal was not available for the children who did not like the main meal. Two children were given snacks provided from home in place of the main meal of the day which was salmon, mashed potatoes, vegetables and gravy.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. An afternoon meal has been introduced into the service. A staff meeting held on the 29th June 2026 has informed staff of this change.
2. An alternative meal is now offered to children. A staff meeting held on the 29th June has informed staff of this change.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation evidence submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection under Regulation 22.

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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 entrance door into the pre-school was secure to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child. There was a buzzer access system.
- The outdoor play areas were secure, so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area or children could not exit unsupervised.
- Visibility strips and visual pictures were installed on glass doors and windows as safety precautions and to prevent injury to children and staff.
- Medication and cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, pedal operated bins. Child friendly handwashing posters were located above the wash hand basins as prompts to promote good handwashing practices.
- The changing unit available was clean and the nappy bin was sealed, airtight and foot operated.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered to a child by staff on the day of inspection.
- Temperature reducing medication was available. It was safely stored and in date. In conversation staff were able to detail the procedures for administering medication to children.

Safe Sleep:

- Individual cots were available for the children under the age of 2 years who required rest and sleep provision.
- A temperature checking device was available in the designated sleep room to monitor the sleep room temperature while the younger children were sleeping.
- Stackable beds were available for the children aged over 2 years of age who required sleep provision.
- Regular sleep checks were carried out on the children and recorded on the electronic application.

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Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were unobstructed throughout the service.
- Clear signage was available to highlight the exits.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Three highchairs in use in the creche room had the shoulder straps removed, so children were not safely secured into the highchairs. Another child was in a highchair where the shoulder straps were available but only the waist strap was used.

Infection Control:

2. Seven children in the creche room did not have their hands washed before eating their dinner. A baby wipe was used to wipe hands, but this is not an effective method of handwashing.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. New straps have been purchased and fitted on to the three highchairs in use in the creche room. Children will be fastened securely into the highchairs using the correct straps. Staff have been informed of this practice.

Infection Control:

2. Handwashing before meals will be carried out for all children. Staff have been reminded of the policy on infection control and a written notice is now in place in the care rooms.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence has been submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection under Regulation 23.