

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015RN018 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Frenchpark and Districts Childcare CLG |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|

|                            |                                                        |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Corskeagh Estate, Corskeagh, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | F45 Y860 |
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|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Enda McEvoy |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

|                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|

|                            |            |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 10/07/2026 |
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|                                   |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 38 | PM | 36 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

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|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Year's Inspectorate,<br>TUSLA, Child and Family Agency,<br>Government Buildings,<br>Convent Road,<br>Roscommon,<br>Co. Roscommon. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | A. Kennedy and S. Killeen                                                                                                               |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | 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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### Description of service

This community operated pre-school was established in 2004. The service offers full day care and part-time care provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs, for children aged between 0 to 6 years, from Monday to Friday. Additionally, an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes is offered. The service also operates a breakfast club and afterschool programme for school aged children. The service currently caters for a maximum number of 84 children, at any one time. There are six playrooms, the wobbler room, the toddler room, the full day care room 1 and full day care room 2, a sensory room (formally the dining room) are on the ground floor, while the sessional room is on the first floor. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is a dedicated sleep room with six cots, four sleep beds and eight stackable beds available for younger children requiring sleep provision. There are outdoor play areas to the rear and sides of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. There is a named person in charge and a deputy person in charge thirty-seven staff are employed in the service. Twenty-four staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. There is a designated business manager, two office administrators, a cleaner and a caretaker. There are three staff designated to kitchen duties who prepare, cook, and serve the service meals / snacks. Additionally, there are two staff designated solely to the care of the school aged children.

### 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

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This inspection was unannounced and focused on regulations 9 1 (a)(b)(c),2(a)(b)(c)(d),4,11 1,2,8(a)(b), 22, 23, 25 1,2(a)(b), 26 1(a)(b),4, 28 and 29. 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. 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the deputy persons 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(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) There was a designated person in charge and there was two named persons available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The deputy persons in charge were on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived, one of the deputy persons was on site until 13:30hrs and the second deputy person remained on site for the duration of the inspection.
- (c) Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputies were available, on the premises, at all times, when the pre-school children were present.

(2) Following the last inspection held on 04/12/2024, 31 staff files were reviewed. It was advised by the deputy person in charge that eleven staff have ceased employment in the service and sixteen additional staff had commenced in the service since the inspection conducted on 04/12/2024. A total of sixteen files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for fifteen staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.

The following vetting documents were available on file in the service for the fifteen staff members.

- (a) Twenty-two written validated references from past employers including their most recent employer for fourteen staff members.
  - (b) Two staff members had written validated references from sources other than past employer on file.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) International police vetting was available for five staff members who had lived outside of the state for more than six months as adults.
- (4) There was evidence of the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent on file for ten new staff members who worked directly with the children.

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### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) One staff members references were not accepted as they were not signed by the referee and there was no evidence of validation of the two references.
- One staff member had two references on file with no evidence of validation.
- Two staff members had only one reference on file when two were required and no evidence was provided of validation of these references.
- One staff member had no references on file when two were required.
- (d) It could not be ascertained if police vetting were required for three staff members as there were gaps in their cv.
- The police vetting on file for one staff member was not accepted as it was a basic disclosure from the U.K. and not an enhanced disclosure.
- (4) There was no evidence of a qualification on file for one staff member.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The manager of the service submitted a written response to the office of the early year's inspectorate to advise.

- 2.
- (a) the references for one staff member have been signed and validated. The references for the second staff member have been validated, and two references have been obtained and validated. Two references have been obtained for the fifth staff member, and these have been validated.
4. Evidence of qualification was submitted for one staff member.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

The manager of the service submitted evidence.

1. Validation for two staff members and two references has been obtained and validated for the third staff member and two references have been obtained and validated for the fourth staff member.
  2. The cv's for three staff members had been revised and a copy of same submitted to the office of the early year's inspectorate.
  3. Evidence of application for enhanced police vetting for one staff member.
- (4) evidence of qualification for one staff member.

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### Summary Comment

Evidence of an application for one staff for police vetting was reviewed; however, a copy of the complete police vetting has not been submitted for one staff to the inspector to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. The non-compliance in relation to Regulation 9 (2) (d) remains outstanding.

### 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) *Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and*
  - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) There were 8 adults working directly with 38 children on the morning of the inspection when the inspectors arrived unannounced. There were 8 adults worked directly with 36 children during the afternoon. Adequate staff were available during the inspection to work directly with the children and provide relief cover for breaks ensuring that adequate numbers of staff were always available.
- (2) The person in charge ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained.
- On the morning of the inspection, there were 38 children present:
- Sessional Room: Closed on day of inspection.
  - Day Care 2 Room: two staff supervising thirteen children aged between 2-5 years.
  - Toddler Room: two staff supervising Seven children aged between 1-3 years.
  - Wobbler Room: two staff supervising six children aged between 10 months – 2 years and 10 months.

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- Full Day care: two staff supervising twelve children ages between 3-5 years.

On the afternoon of the inspection, there were 36 children present.

- Sessional Room: Closed on day of inspection.
- Day Care 2 Room: two staff supervising eleven children aged between 2-5 years.
- Toddler Room: two staff supervising seven children aged between 1-3 years.
- Wobbler Room: two staff supervising six children aged between 10 months – 2 years and 10 months.
- Full Day care: two staff supervising twelve children ages between 3-5 years.

There were eight staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, the person in charge acted as childcare relief and a relief person was also available to cover staff breaks and lunches. There were two staff designated to kitchen duties, preparing, and serving the service meals. There were two office administrators were on duty.

- (8)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that there were always two staff on the premises while the service was operating.

### 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

- There was a healthy eating policy in the service. The person in charge advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by visual aids, and adherence to best practice guidelines.
- The service had a designated kitchen staff /chefs who prepared and cooked the meals and snacks. All meals and snacks were provided by the service, for children attending on a full day care / part-time basis.
- From 08:00hrs to 8:30hrs children were provided with breakfast to consist of a selection of cereals, toast with milk or water to drink.
- At 9:30hrs the children had their morning snack of yoghurts and a selection of fruits with milk or water to drink.
- At 12.00hrs, the main meal of mincemeat in a bolognese sauce, pasta and mashed potato was offered to the children.
- An afternoon snack of a selection of fruits and bread was provided for the children.
- At 16.30hrs, the children had the opportunity for a further snack of fruit pieces with milk to drink.
- At each meal and snack the children had the opportunity for second portions and/or an alternative.

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- Cutlery, plates, and crockery were offered for children's meal/snack times.
- Drinking water was available and accessible to children in each playroom.

### 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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent a child gaining unsupervised access and unauthorised persons gaining access to the premises.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured by fencing and a gate so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the areas and children could not exit unsupervised.
- The door into the kitchen, office, storerooms, and staff room had a system of security.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There were high-level windows in the playrooms, as a safety security precaution.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted to prevent any trip or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Water temperature readings were below the recommended 43°C reducing a risk of scalding.

##### Infection Control:

- Staff prompted and supervised the children to wash their hands before eating, following nappy changing / toileting, messy play, and outdoor play.
- Adequate liquid soap and paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the sanitary areas and the playrooms.
- There was a designated nappy changing area. The nappy mat was intact. The children's barrier creams were individually labelled. Plastic aprons and gloves were provided for staff to wear when changing nappies.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- There were suitable cleaning products available in the service.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in each of the playrooms.
- There were foot pedalled lidded bins in the sanitary areas and playrooms.

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### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not observed to be administered to any child during the inspection. The staff were aware of safe procedures for storing and administering medication.

### Safe Sleep:

- There was a designated room off the wobbler room with six cots, four sleep beds and eight stackable beds for younger children's sleep provision.
- On the day of inspection, children were observed sleeping after their main meal, in the designated sleep room and the toddler room.
- The sleep policy detailed the correct temperature, lighting, ventilation, space between cots and child safety requirements.
- The inspectors observed and documentary evidence showed that the staff physically checked sleeping children every 10 minutes. The service kept documented sleep records. Records for sleeping children included a record of the room temperature and the position, colour and breathing of the child (as per the safe sleep for under 2's best practice guidelines for childcare services policy) and the signature of the staff member who checks the sleeping child.
- A supply of clean linen was available for each child.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the care rooms.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.

### Outing:

- It was advised that the service go for walks to the local village, consent is given by the parents, a risk assessment is carried out prior to the outing, emergency numbers and the first aid box are brought on the outing.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

- There were no visibility strip/stickers on the glass door in the full day care room one which could be a potential safety concern.
- A rodent bait box was in the children's toilet in the outdoor play area which could prove risk of injury to a child.

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3. A section of the wooden fencing in the outdoor area was worn and uneven with potential risk of injury to a child.
4. There were trailing wires from decorative outdoor lighting within child reach which could pose risk of injury to a child.
5. Three sections of the linoleum flooring in the full day care room 1 were worn and in poor condition which could pose a potential tripping hazard.
6. It was observed that one child's medication was out of date and required replacement.

### Infection Control:

7. The soft seating in the toddler room and sensory room was ripped and frayed and the picnic table in the outdoor area had chipped paint and could prove difficult to effectively clean.
8. A flip top bin was in the sensory room for waste disposal. This could pose a risk of cross contamination.
9. A newly fitted wall mounted nappy changing unit in full day care room 2 posed a potential infection control issue as it was located over the children's toilet. This unit must be relocated to an alternative space as the toilet was also in use by the children.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

The manager of the service submitted a written response to the office of the early year's inspectorate to advise.

1. Appropriate visibility decals have been fitted to the glass door at suitable heights to ensure the glass is clearly visible to both children and adults. Glass doors will be included in routine health and safety checks. Visibility markings will be inspected regularly and replaced promptly if damaged, removed or no longer sufficiently visible.
2. The rodent bait box was immediately removed from the children's toilet area and relocated to the adjacent boiler house which is inaccessible to children. All pest-control devices and locations will be frequently reviewed with our pest-control provider to ensure they are inaccessible to children. Pest-control points will also be incorporated into routine safety checks.
3. The affected section of fencing has been replaced. Outdoor fencing and boundaries will be included in documented outdoor-area safety checks. Any deterioration will be recorded in the maintenance log and prioritised according to the level of risk.
4. The decorative lights were removed immediately. Staff will ensure that any new decorative lighting or electrical equipment is installed with cables appropriately secured and inaccessible to children before use.

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5. The affected sections were immediately assessed and temporarily secured to remove the tripping risk while arrangements are made for professional replacement of the flooring. Flooring condition will be incorporated into routine premises inspections. Damage will be recorded immediately in the maintenance log, risk assessed and escalated for repair/replacement according to priority.
6. The expired medication was no longer in use or required by the child and was disposed of. Medication expiry dates will be checked and recorded at regular scheduled intervals and when medication is received. Parents/Guardians will be contacted in advance where medication is approaching its expiry date to allow sufficient time for replacement. Any medication which is left in the service and no longer required by the child will be safely disposed of.

### Infection Control:

7. The damaged soft seating in the toddler and sensory room was removed and replaced. The picnic table was removed. We will ensure furniture and equipment are frequently checked, with any damage or defects being reported.
8. The flip-top bin was removed and replaced with a pedal-operated, hands-free waste bin. Suitable waste-disposal bins will be maintained in relevant areas and frequently checked.
9. The changing unit was removed and full day care room 2 use an alternative changing area located in a separate sanitary area away from any toilets. Nappy changing facilities will be reviewed frequently by management to ensure their location and use are appropriate.

### Supporting documentation submitted

### General Safety:

The manager of the service submitted photographic evidence of

1. The visibility stickers fitted on the glass doors in full day care room one.
2. The removed rodent bait box from the children's outdoor toilet.
3. The replaced fencing in the outdoor play area.
4. The decorative lights removed.
5. The repaired flooring in full day care room 1.

### Infection Control:

7. The repaired seating in the toddler room and sensory room.
8. The replaced bin in the sensory room.
9. The removed nappy changing unit from the toilet cubicle and an additional nappy changing unit in place in full day care room 2.

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Management has reviewed the system for identifying, recording, and following up on premises and maintenance issues. A documented maintenance tracker will be maintained, with issues categorised according to risk/priority and monitored through to completion. Regular walk-through inspections of all rooms, sanitary areas and outdoor areas will be completed, alongside daily safety checks carried out by staff. Room leaders will be reminded to report newly identified hazards promptly to management so that appropriate interim controls and permanent corrective actions can be implemented.

### Summary Comment

The early years inspectors have assessed the responses and evidence submitted and deems it to address the areas of non-compliances identified under Regulation 23.

### 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. Nine members of staff had undertaken First Aid Response (FAR) training with certificates available for inspection.
2. (a)  
There were suitably equipped and labelled first aid boxes stored out of reach of the children in the playrooms. The first aid equipment was easily available if a child required first aid treatment in the service.

### 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)
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 03/12/2025. The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 05/05/2026.
- (4) On the day of inspection, a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were observed to be displayed in a conspicuous place within the premises.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) Fire drills had not been completed monthly. This was not in line with the service fire safety policy which states that the service will carry out monthly fire drill would be carried out. There was no record that a fire drill had been carried out in February or June 2026.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a) The manager of the service advised the fire drill records were reviewed following inspection and the gaps in February and June 2026 were identified. A fire drill was carried out following the inspection and appropriately documented. Management reviewed the fire drill procedure and recording requirements with relevant staff to ensure responsibilities are clearly understood. A date for each month's fire drill has been selected for the remainder of the year, with responsibility assigned to management to ensure the drill is completed and recorded each month. A recurring monthly reminder has been established to prevent drills being missed. Management will review the fire safety records monthly to verify completion and follow up on any outstanding actions.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(a) The manager of the service submitted evidence of a fire drill which was carried out on 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2026.

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### Summary Comment

The early years inspectors have assessed the actions taken and evidence submitted and deems it to address the non-compliance noted under Regulation 26.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service had a certificate of insurance for a maximum of 132 children attending full day care services with an expiry date of the 27 March 2027.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated, and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained, and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (a) From a visual inspection the premises was of sound and stable structure.
- (b) Exits were clearly identified and visible during service hours. Electrical sockets were safe. The service had a reception to facilitate parents and guardians' contact.
- (c) There was natural lighting from the windows on the outer walls for each playroom. The playrooms were well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors. The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.
- (e) Adequate staff and children's sanitary accommodation was available in the premises.

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### Non-Compliance Information

(d) The ceiling in the outdoor sanitary area had missing tiles and required replacement.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The manager of the service submitted a written response to state.

(d) The missing ceiling tiles in the outdoor sanitary area were replaced following the inspection. The area was checked following completion to ensure the ceiling was intact and in a suitable state of repair. The condition of ceilings, walls and other structural finishes will be included in routine premises and maintenance inspections. Any damage or missing tiles identified will be recorded on the maintenance log and addressed promptly. Management will monitor outstanding maintenance items to ensure they are completed within an appropriate time frame.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

The manager of the service submitted photographic evidence of the repaired ceiling tiles in the outdoor sanitary accomodation.

### Summary Comment

The early years inspectors have assessed the actions taken and evidence submitted and deems it to address the non-compliance noted under Regulation 29.