

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX036
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Name of Service:	Crossabeg Community Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	Sion, Crossabeg, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y33 KH27
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Name of Registered Provider:	Alice O'Connor
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	15/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	54	PM	49
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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

Crossabeg Community Childcare Centre is a community based early years service which is managed by a voluntary committee. The service operates a play based full day care service from 8.30am to 6pm and can accommodate up to 54 children aged from 6 months to 6 years. Additionally, the service offers a before and after-school service to school aged children.

The service operates from a purpose-built premises. It consists of four playrooms, two sleep rooms, a kitchen, office, staff facilities and sanitary accommodation. A large outdoor garden and play area is available to the rear of the property.

Staffing

The service employs 23 staff in total including the registered provider. The registered provider is the designated person in charge, and a second-named staff member was available to deputise as required. The service employs a caretaker and cleaner.

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.

Regulation 9(1)(2)(4) – Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2) – Staffing Levels,

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Regulation 20 – Facilities for Rest and Play,
Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
Regulation 25 – First Aid,
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety,
Regulation 27 – Supervision and
Regulation 28 – Insurance.

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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN1426	16/06/2026	A staff member working directly with the children did not have police vetting available.
Status	The registered provider submitted a response with an action plan to address the notice. The vetting disclosure was submitted.	
Immediate Action Notice IAN1441	15/06/2026	A staff member working directly with the children did not have garda vetting disclosure available.
Status	The registered provider submitted a response to address the notice. The vetting disclosure was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.	

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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)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge. There was a second-named person available to deputise for the registered provider as required.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were six new staff employed in the service since the last inspection. The files for the six new staff were reviewed.

There were 20 written and validated references available on file for staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for six staff files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.

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(d)

A Police vetting disclosure was on file for a staff member who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for three new staff files who were working directly with children. Two of the six staff did not work directly with the children.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

Six of the required 12 references were not available on file for staff members.

(c)

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN1441 served.

(d)

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN1426 served.

(4)

There were no records available to confirm that one staff member met the required qualifications in Early Learning and Care or equivalent on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

The staff references are now on file and validated. A checklist is in place to ensure required staff documents are in place.

(c)

Satisfactory response.

(d)

Satisfactory response.

(4)

The staff member was removed from the staff roster till certificate of qualifications are available.

Supporting documentation submitted

Validated references, staff roster, vetting disclosures.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1)(2)

There was an adequate number of staff working with the children for the duration of the inspection.

Day 1:

During the morning, there were 54 children being directly cared for by 14 staff.

During the afternoon, there were 49 children being directly cared for by 10 staff.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

All of the children attending the service had access to both indoor and outdoor spaces for play.

The service consists of four playrooms, two sleep rooms and adjacent toilets. All rooms had easy access to the outdoor play area. They were equipped with a wide variety of play materials, which were suitable for the age and stage of development of the children. Open shelving had boxes of materials such as puzzles and jigsaws which allowed children to access materials independently during free play. Each room was individually resourced and designed to meet the needs and interests of the age group using them. For example, the baby and toddler rooms

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had carpeted areas suitable to meet the needs of crawling and early walking children. Books, dress up material, nature tables, construction toys, small world and home areas were available for the children.

Children's identity and belonging was fostered through the display of their works of art and their recent learning, birthday walls, family photographs and labelled hooks for their coats and bags,

Children had access to the outdoor play areas located to the rear of the premises. The outside area was fully enclosed and had sufficient space for the number of children attending. It was large with a variety of surfaces and areas. There was a concreted area for ride on toys, gravel pathways and large grassy areas. The children had access to climbing frames, mud kitchens, sandpits, digging and planting areas. Natural hedges defined the spaces, and two covered play areas provided additional space to two of the playrooms.

(b)

All children were facilitated to rest or sleep as needed. Two sleep rooms were available, one with cots in the baby room and the other with sleep beds in the toddler room. The rooms were dimmed and restful for sleep and the optimum room temperature was maintained. All rooms had a quiet corners/rest areas for children to sit and relax which consisted of small sofa, mats and cushions. These were suitable for children to rest and relax as and when they wanted.

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 leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.

Cleaning agents and medication were stored out of children's reach and storage facilities were inaccessible to children. Emergency and fire exits were signposted and unobstructed and staff were aware of the evacuation procedures and location of the assembly point.

Infection Control:

The playrooms and sanitary areas were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels.

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Children were observed washing their hands before eating and after toileting. Perishable food was stored in the fridges.

The toilets were clean and well maintained.

Administration of Medication:

The service had an administration of medicine policy and a record book for the administration of medicines.

Safe Sleep:

Sleeping children were physically checked every 10 minutes with a record of their colour, breathing and position of sleeping in line with good safe sleep practices.

Cots were used for younger children to sleep in and sleep beds were available for older children.

Appropriate bed linen was in use for sleeping children. Staff were observed to monitor the temperature of the sleep room during the day to ensure it remained within safe limits.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Formula bottles were observed being heated in a microwave. This practice does not comply with safe infant feeding as microwave heating can cause uneven distribution creating hot spots potentially scalding a baby's mouth.

Infection Control:

2. The practices observed during nappy changing were not carried out consistently, in line with service's infection control policy, posing a risk of contamination. The following was observed:
 - Children's hands were not consistently washed after their nappy was changed.
 - Gloves were not consistently removed after the nappy change before redressing the child.
 - Staff did not consistently wash their hands after every nappy change.
 - Staff did not consistently change their aprons between each nappy change.
 - Children's individual creams and ointments for use during nappy changing were stored in a communal box and not stored individually in the toddler room. This created a risk of cross contamination as staff did not remove their gloves while accessing them.

Administration of Medication:

3. A review of administration of medication forms in two playrooms indicated that written parental consent was not obtained before the administration of medication for all children. This was not in line with the

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service's policy for the safe administration of medication. A review of medication books showed inconsistencies in the filing out of the administration record with key details omitted.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response to address the non-compliances:

Corrective & Preventive Action

1. The service's policy on heating formula bottles has now changed. The formula feeding policy was given to staff who are aware of the new procedures.
2. The infection control policy has been amended and circulated to the staff. The steps of the procedure have been reviewed with staff.
3. Parental consent has been updated and put in place. Staff will ensure all details are in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

Medication form. Updated procedures and policies.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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)
There were three people trained in a first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service. There was evidence on file that 17 staff working directly with the children were trained in an emergency first aid course.

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(2)(a)(b)

There were a suitably equipped first aid boxes stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which were available to the children attending the preschool 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)(a)

Fire drills were completed monthly. The last fire drill completed was recorded on the 13 May 2026.

(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in July 2025 and January 2026.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The service ensured that the children were appropriately supervised throughout the inspection.

All staff were suitably qualified and had experience working directly with children. The child staff ratios were fully maintained in line with the requirements outlined under the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. The staff rota indicated all staff present on the day were rostered to work.

Supervision in the outdoor spaces:

The outdoor play area was located to the rear of the building and consisted of a large natural play environment designed to give children space and freedom. Staff actively supervised the children during outdoor play to ensure their safety and wellbeing. The outdoor areas were fully enclosed allowing children freedom within the space, balanced with the staff's ability to fully see children at all times.

Children from all rooms enjoyed time in the outdoor play including the younger babies. Staff had buggies available and brought babies and younger children for walks in smaller groups.

Toileting:

Children were encouraged to use the toilet facilities independently and staff stood nearby, available to help as needed and prompting children with handwashing.

During mealtimes:

A staff member sat at the tables with the children while they ate. Children were encouraged to feed themselves independently and staff provided help and encouragement as needed. Mealtimes were relaxed, calm and sociable with lots of chatting heard. In the baby room staff remained with younger children and babies while eating. Children were placed in appropriate chairs for feeding.

During sleep:

Children were monitored closely while sleeping and resting to ensure they were safe, comfortable, and breathing normally. Child staff ratios were maintained across the service during sleep and rest times. The service recorded

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all sleep checks on the service digital app, that allowed parents to monitor their child's daily routine via notifications. Staff were observed to remain in the room with children sleeping on sleep beds.

Management of drop off and collection of children:

Parents and guardians were observed arriving at collection times. It was observed that parents collected their children from each of the rooms and spoke with the staff members caring for their child. This time provided an opportunity for parents and guardians to share information about their child's day.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for full day care for 86 children.