

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2016CE008

Name of Service: Cairde Beag Kilkee

Address of Service: Smith's Gardens
Circular Road
Kilkee
Co Clare

Email Address: dgraham@cldc.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ms Dóirín Graham

Type of Service Registered: Part-time ☒

Date(s) of Inspection: Day 1 0 2 0 6 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 5 PM 5

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate,
TUSLA, Child and Family Agency,
2nd floor Estuary House
Henry Street
Limerick

Inspection undertaken by: J Ryan
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	This community childcare service caters for pre-school children from the ages of 1 - 5 years and is registered to provide care on a part time basis. The service is open from 09.00hrs to 14.00hrs, Monday to Friday.
Premises	This is a purpose built two storey childcare building. The ground floor only is used for childcare. Three preschool rooms are available downstairs, a kitchen and dining room, a sleep room and nappy change areas/sanitary accommodation. Two outdoor play areas are located at the rear and to the side of the premises. The service was closed for a number of years as the numbers of children attending had decreased. It has reopened on 13/04/2022 and there is one room only being used to accommodate children.
Staffing	Currently two staff members and a childcare centre manager are employed in the service. Clare Local Development Company (CLDC) is the organisation with overall responsibility for operating the service.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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. 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 areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. 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.
Additional Information	Not Applicable
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "
- (6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

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 designated person in charge and a second staff member were available on the premises.
- Two new members of staff were employed since the last inspection of the service.
- (2) (a) Validated references from past employers were available for both adults who worked in the service.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (b) Where past employer references were not available, references from a source other than a previous employer were provided.
- (c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for both adults.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as no adult had worked in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months.
- (4) Both adults held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.
- (6)(a) Not applicable as the qualification exemption for staff retiring by September 2021 was not required.
- (b) Not applicable as the granting of an exemption to the requirement for a qualification under the Early Childhood Care and Education was not required.
- (6A) Not applicable as the qualification exemption for an adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model had not been sought.

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

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| Compliance Information: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) On the 02/06/2022 there were 2 adults working with 5 pre-school children in the morning and there were 2 adults working with 5 pre-school children in the afternoon which met the requirements of the Regulations. (2) At all times during the inspection the person in charge ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service. (8)(a) Not applicable as there were two adults on the premises at all times. |
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HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy snacks were provided by the parents for the children who attended the service. The snacks consisted of sandwiches, fruit, yogurts and a drink. A healthy eating policy was available.
- Children were assisted as appropriate with their personal care and were encouraged to be self-caring.
- All pre-school children had ample space to move freely in the indoor and outdoor environment.
- Children who were toilet trained toileted independently and those that required nappy changing were changed in a designated changing area in the sanitary accommodation adjacent to hand washing facilities.
- A rest/quiet area consisting of an adult sized couch was evident in the room where staff and children could sit together on soft seating, relax or opt out of an activity if they wished.
- There was a positive approach to behaviour management and good behaviour in children was positively reinforced. The use of the key person system helped children form and sustain secure relationships with the adults caring for them. Staff were observed to respond to the children, chat with them and listen to them if they became upset.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- There was one playroom only in the childcare centre in use at the time of the inspection. The playroom was arranged to provide a range of developmentally appropriate experiences, choices and fun for the children.
- The children had access to a large range of toys and equipment including arts and crafts materials, colouring pencils, paper, small world materials such as cars, tractors, and trucks. Blocks, sand pits and water tables were available indoors and outdoors. Books, jigsaws and puzzles, manipulative toys and imaginative play such as dress up clothes were available.
- Areas of interest included well-resourced arts and crafts areas, a construction area, a home area, a dress up area, a hairdressing area, a library area with a variety of books and soft seats for children to sit and relax.
- All the children had the opportunity to play outdoors for long periods of time during the inspection. The outdoor area was safely enclosed and had a matted surface. The equipment observed in the outdoor play area included

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

a large sand box, a seesaw, a mud kitchen, slide, plant boxes, playhouses, a mirror and a games stand.

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 doors into the service were secured thus preventing children from exiting the premises unsupervised and prohibiting unauthorised persons from entering the service. There were no hazards identified in the playroom.

INFECTION CONTROL:

Hand washing with the children was observed after toileting and prior to eating. The premises were clean and well maintained and cleaning programmes were documented.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

No medication was administered to children on the day. The adults demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regards to medication administration in the service.

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) One adult had up to date training in first aid for children which was valid until September 2023.

(2)(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box stored in a designated first aid storage area which was easily accessible.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

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) Records were available to show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis. (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises. The last maintenance check for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms took place in April 2022. (4) The fire evacuation procedure was displayed in conspicuous position in the premises.
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