

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017KK501
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Name of Service:	Cheeky Monkeys
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Address of Service:	Seville Lawns, Margaret Field, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny
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Eircode:	R95 VY4E
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Name of Registered Provider:	Orla Neary
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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	41	PM	26
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child & Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow.
Inspection undertaken by:	Norma Thornton
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

Cheeky Monkeys is a registered full day childcare service located in the Margaret Field residential estate, on the Callan Road, in Kilkenny city. The service provides sessional, part-time, full day childcare services for children from birth to six years of age. The service operates from 08:00 to 18:00 hours, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays, Good Friday and closes from the 23 December to New Year. The service is located on the ground floor of an apartment block and is comprised of five classrooms, a baby room, wobbler room, toddler room, preschool room and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) room. There is a designated sleep room, a kitchen area and outdoor play area onsite.

Staffing

There are 12 staff employed in the service, including the registered provider and a service chef.

All staff employed to work directly with the children held a major award in early childhood care and education at minimum Level 5 to Level 7 on the National Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Framework.

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.

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A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following regulations.

Regulation 10- Policies, Procedures etc. of a Pre-School Service,
Regulation 21-Equipment and Materials,
Regulation 22- Food and Nutrition,
Regulation 23- Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
Regulation 24- Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance,

As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms the baby room, wobbler room, junior pre-school room and senior ECCE room.

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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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.

(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 service has a named designated person in charge, and a named person who can deputise as required.

(b) At all times during the inspection the designated person in charge was onsite with the deputy designated person in charge also present.

(2) Staff files for 12 staff members were reviewed by the inspector.

(a)(b) Two validated references were available on file for each staff member, from either a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting certificates were available on file for each of the 12 staff members including the registered provider. However, the registered provider did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

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(d) Not applicable as no staff member currently employed in the service had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Certificates of qualifications were available for inspection, for each staff member, who as part of their role were working directly with the children, demonstrating that each staff member held at least a minimum Level 5 to Level 8 qualification in early childhood care and education on the national QQI Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

On review of the service's policies, the inspector was assured that the registered provider ensured that all required documents specified in Schedule 5, were available in the service and were communicated to the staff as part of their induction process on commencing employment in the service, with annual reviews and revisions taking place as appropriate.

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

(1) Throughout the inspection, there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed in each of the three preschool classrooms that were in operation during the inspection.

Baby Room- Throughout the morning of the inspection, there were 3 children (2 aged 1 year, 1 aged 11months) directly cared for by 1 staff member.

In the afternoon 2 children aged 1 year were directly cared for by 1 staff member.

Wobbler Room –Six children aged 1 to 2 years of age, were directly cared for by 2 staff members throughout the day of inspection.

An additional staff member provided relief for staff breaks in the wobbler and toddler classrooms and provided assistant with care tasks in both classrooms.

Toddler Room- There were 2 staff members directly caring for 8 children aged 2 to 4 years throughout the morning of inspection with 6 children present with 1 staff member in the afternoon.

Junior Pre-School Room- In the morning there were 8 children aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years being cared for by 1 staff member and in the afternoon 5 children remained with the 1 staff member.

Senior ECCE Room- In the morning 16 children aged 4 to 5 years were directly cared for by 2 staff member and in the evening 7 children aged 4 to 5 years remained with 1 staff member.

(8)(a) On review of the staff roster and in discussion with the staff the inspector was assured that there were always at least two adults on the premises while children were in attendance in the service.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The inspector observed that there was suitable and appropriate equipment and play materials provided in each of the classrooms which created physical environments suitable to the individual and developmental needs of the children attending the service. Areas of interest were observed in all classrooms supplemented with appropriate themed play materials and resources. Children were observed comfortably sitting on suitable chairs enjoying table activities or accessing boxes of play materials from child height storage shelves.

Younger children in the baby and wobbler rooms availed of the clear floor space for progress of physical development as well as relaxing with their early years educators on the rocking chair or soft rest areas provided. The outdoor area provided opportunities for messy play in the outdoor kitchen and for freedom of movement in the clear space provided. Ride on toys and balance bikes provided children with opportunities to develop physical skills.

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

A four-week menu plan was in place in the service providing a variety of meal options for the children in attendance. Children bought their morning snacks from home with perishable items stored safely in refrigerators. The inspector observed that staff ensured that children's snacks were healthy options in line with the service's healthy eating policy through effective communication with parents upon registration of their child in the service and with regular informative newsletters home regarding healthy suitable lunch options.

Each classroom had a water station with the staff working in the younger classrooms frequently observed to encourage the younger children to take drinks of water.

The menu plans reviewed by the inspector contained options including snacks of crackers, fruit and yogurts, main hot meals of meat-based dishes such as cottage pie, chicken curry, lasagne and chorizo and smoked bacon pasta,

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while the chef in the service also ensured at least one main meal and evening tea per week was fish based including salmon and fish fingers on the menu.

Water or milk was offered at each meal and snack time.

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 main entrance to the service was secured with a keypad call system.

A reception area was located at the front of the service which was managed by the registered provider or designated person in charge providing a clear view of any visitors to the service before authorising entry. This assisted in reducing the risk of any child in the service from exiting the service unsupervised, and that to prevent any unauthorised person from entering the premises.

The outdoor play area at the side of the premises was secured with a locked side gate and high surrounding wall and wooden fence.

The inspector observed records demonstrating that a daily risk assessment of the outdoor play area was carried out and a record of same maintained by staff.

All cleaning equipment and cleaning solutions were stored in designated secure storage area safely out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

The service had an adequate infection control policy in place. Hand washing was observed to be carried out by both staff and the children, prior to mealtimes, after using tissues to blow noses, after messy and outdoor play. Toileting and nappy changing were supported and carried out in line with both the toileting and nappy changing policies available, as part of in the service's infection control policy,

Cleaning schedules were displayed in each classroom and demonstrated that these were recorded daily by the staff present.

Administration of Medication:

The inspector observed an administration of medication procedure on the day of inspection. The staff were observed to carry out and record the procedure in line with the service's administration of medication policy,

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ensuring all relevant checks were carried out on the child receiving the prescribed medication and ensuring that both staff signatures were recorded with the parent 's/ guardian's signature also recorded providing consent.

Safe Sleep:

The service had a spacious sleep room located in a quiet area at the back of the premises adjacent to the wobbler and toddler rooms. Nine standard cots were provided for children under two years of age. A supply of stackable beds was available for children over two years to use to take naps in a sectioned off area of the junior pre-school room when required.

Staff ensured that the sleep room was at the correct temperature, between 18°C- 22°C the recommended temperature range for children over 1 year of age. The inspector observed that staff checked that cots were adequately spaced apart and children were placed to sleep on their backs with their feet to the foot of the cot.

The staff were observed to work together in carrying out and recording physical checks of each sleeping child every 10 minutes, recording each child's sleep position, colour and breathing.

Outing:

An outings policy was in place in the service however the registered provider stated that outings were not operated outside of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Garda vetting was available for 12 staff members. However, one vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Garda vetting was reapplied for on 12/06/2026.

Unfortunately, this was an oversight on my behalf, and I will be more vigilant in checking all vetting is up to date in future.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Copy of application form and subsequently copy of renewed Garda vetting certificate.

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Summary Comment

The actions submitted are appropriate to address the non-compliance. The implementation of these actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) no person other than-*
 - (i) pre-school child attending the service,*
 - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*
 - (iii) an employee, or*
 - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*
 - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The staff demonstrated to the inspector that each pre-school child's daily attendance and departure times to and from the service were recorded daily.
- On review of each classroom's attendance records the number of children present in the service correlated with the attendance records maintained by the staff.
- (3)(a) The inspector observed that no person other than a child attending the service, a parent/ guardian dropping or collecting a child, an employee or unpaid worker could enter the premises without authorisation by the registered provider or an employee.
- (b) The inspector observed that a daily record of any visitors to the service was maintained and detailed the name, contact details, purpose of visit and times of entry and exit from the service. The inspector was required to record the details in the record book upon arriving at the service.
- (4) The inspector observed that a visitor record had been maintained for greater than one year prior to the date of inspection.

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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 seven staff members present in the service with current first aid responder (FAR) training. The staff roster reflected that there was always at least three staff members with current FAR training onsite while the children were in attendance.
- (2) (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and clearly identifiable on a shelf on the corridor that connected all the classrooms.
- (b) The first aid box was always available to the children and records demonstrated that its contents were checked and replaced, if necessary, monthly.

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.*
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,*
 - (b) an employee, and*
 - (c) an authorised person.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A record of monthly fire drills carried out in the service was maintained, the last fire drill carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place on the 14 May 2026.
- (b) A record of the annual maintenance checks of fire-fighting equipment in the service was maintained. The last maintenance check of the smoke alarm system was recorded as having taken place on the 19 December 2025 and the firefighting equipment was also last serviced in January 2026.
- (2) The records referred to in paragraph (1) were available onsite for review by the inspector and were available on request from the registered provider for review by parents, guardians, staff and other authorised persons.
- (3) On review of fire safety records the inspector observed that the registered provider ensured that record were maintained on file for a period of five years.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was clearly displayed on a notice board in the entrance hall and in each classroom.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service's insurance certificate was available for review by the inspector, detailing that insurance was in place for a full day childcare service for up to a maximum number of 70 early years children. The insurance certificate was due to expire on the 27 March 2027.