

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019LD001				
Name of Service:	Center Parcs Longford Forest Activity Den				
Address of Service:	Ballymahon, Ballymahon, Co. Longford				
Eircode:	N39 RH95				
Name of Registered Provider:	Daragh Feighery				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	15/04/2026				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>11</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	11	PM	N/A
AM	11	PM	N/A		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.				
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan				
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

Center Parc's Longford Forest Activity Den Holiday Resort provides sessional childcare to children on short term breaks. It is registered to provide two preschool sessions from 10:00am to 13:00hrs and from 14:00 to 17:00hrs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays catering for the 3-6yrs age group however scheduling depends on demand and time of year. Parents are required to prebook their child/children if they wish to attend a session. The service is located in a large sports complex with an extensive and varied range of activities provided for families. A separate entrance lobby is provided as the entrance to the childcare facility with two staff employed at the reception area to sign each child in and ensures no unauthorised persons can enter the Activity Den. A large spacious activity room with adjacent sanitary facilities is available to the children. An enclosed outdoor play area directly accessible from the preschool room is located at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service and has employed a manager and two named duty managers as the persons in charge. Five adults are employed throughout the working week and subject to demand for the different sessions provided. All of the staff are employed work directly with the children and hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 and safety.

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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 person in charge, 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

(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

The records of nine adults including the Registered Provider were reviewed.

(2)

(a)(b) Two written validated references were available from past employers or sources other than a previous employer in respect of nine adults whose records were reviewed.

(c) A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of all adults.

The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for four adults who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Seven adults employed to work directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at levels 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) There were eleven children attending the service being supervised directly by three adults.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

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 to the service was secured and managed by the staff to ensure the safety of the children within. The outdoor area in the service was secured. A daily indoor room and outdoor risk assessment was completed and maintained to ensure a safe play and work environment for the children and staff. Maintenance is managed by the maintenance department in the resort.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. As part of the booking process parents complete a risk assessment form for their child and any identified risks are proactively managed prior to the child arriving to the service.

Staff members advised the inspector they would remove any beaded necklace if they observed a child wearing them.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members were familiar with the importance of handwashing practice as a means to control the spread of infection in the service. They supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines

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were well established. Facilities were available for nappy changing if needed. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal and containment of used tissues. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environment and equipment which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

A fridge was available in the kitchen for the storage of perishable foods.

Administration of Medication:

There was no medicines administered to children on the day of the inspection. The staff members demonstrated knowledge of safe practices around the administration of medication.

Safe Sleep:

There was a defined rest area in the room.

Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills had been carried out, and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire evacuation routes were not obstructed.

Outing:

Not applicable.

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.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (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.

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Compliance Information

- (1) The person in charge ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records available in the care room.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a), (b) The person in charge ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained. The inspector's visit to the service was documented in the visitor's book on arrival.
- (4) The person in charge confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

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) Two staff members were trained in in first aid response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)
 - (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the care room.
 - (b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available at all times to the adults caring for the children in the care room.

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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 firefighting 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) A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 28 March 2026.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced in March 2026, and the smoke alarm was serviced on 25 April 2025.
- (4) Notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the Activity Den.

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

Children were observed being supervised at all times by the staff caring for them in the care room and while using the sanitary accommodation during the morning.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There registered provider ensured that the pre-school service was insured. The expiry date on the insurance cover note was 30 June 2026.