

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020MN001
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Name of Service:	Klaine Childcare LTD
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Address of Service:	Unit 5 York Street, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
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Eircode:	A75 WD28
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Name of Registered Provider:	Clare Callan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	20/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	37	PM	16
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk Monaghan
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader and S. McKenna
Title:	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

Klaine Childcare Ltd is a privately run service providing a full day care, part-time, sessional service to children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. The service is located in a converted commercial building in the town of Castleblayney Co. Monaghan and consists of the following 3 rooms, the Butterfly Room, the Busy Bees Room and the Sunflower Room. Other rooms in the service included a kitchen, office, reception area, quiet area off the Busy Bees Room, children's and staff sanitary facilities. There was an outdoor area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were 18 staff including the registered provider employed in the service:

- The registered provider was employed in an administrative role.
- 1 staff member was employed to work as cleaner.
- 10 staff were employed to work directly with the preschool children. One of whom also worked with the school aged children in the afternoon.
- 2 staff were employed to work solely with the school aged children.
- 3 staff members present who worked with the school aged children in the afternoon and were present as students in the morning.
- 1 staff member employed in School Age Intervention.

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

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- 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.

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

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN1301	21/04/2026	One staff member did not have evidence of international police vetting.
Status	The registered provider submitted a corrective action which was accepted and addressed the Statutory Notice. Copy of international police vetting submitted 21/7/26 to the Inspectorate.	

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.

(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) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge who is also the registered provider and a named person to deputise as required. The person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service.

Of the 18 staff employed in the service 7 new staff / student files, and Garda vetting for all other staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection. The full staff files for the other 11 members of staff were reviewed on the previous inspection and were found to be compliant.

(2)(a)(b) Of the 4 new staff / 3 student files reviewed:

- There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for 3 members of staff and the 3 students.

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(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda vetting disclosure was available for all 7 new staff members/ students. Garda vetting disclosures were also reviewed for the 11 other staff members including the registered provider. The Garda vetting disclosures were found to be within the re-vetting 3 yearly timeframes.

(d) International police vetting was available for 1 of the 2 staff members for whom it was required.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to show that 3 of the 4 new staff members working directly with the preschool children had a minimum Level 5 qualification. A qualification was not required for the 3 students/ school aged staff.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IAN 1301 served.

(2)(a) One staff member did not have two written and validated references. This was found to be non-compliant at the last inspection on 11/4/25. The corrective actions submitted following that inspection stated that all members of staff will have two sufficient written references. The service was to complete a checklist so that staff commencing employment would have two written references in place. The actions outlined did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

(4) One staff member did not have documentary evidence of having a qualification equal to a minimum Level 5 in childcare this is a recurring non-compliance and at variance to the registered provider's response at the previous inspection, Service will "ensure all staff in preschool rooms have a minimum level 5 in qualification in Early Years or an equivalent". The actions outlined did not prevent the recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) Staff member obtained new references, which were verified by management.

The staff list for each member has been re-checked and new management has been made aware to ensure staff do not start working within the service until all relevant documentation has been received.

(4) The staff member has sent in their application to the DCDE and does not currently work with preschool age children.

The registered provider will ensure that staff send their qualification in to the DCDE if they do not have a childcare qualification.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of references.

Summary Comment

(2)(a) The Inspectorate has reviewed the registered provider's response and assurances given. The response is accepted and the non-compliance addressed.

(4) The registered provider's response is accepted and the non-compliance is addressed.

The registered provider's ability to sustain these corrective and preventative actions will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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

Compliance Information

(2) The following adult: child ratios were observed in the care rooms when the inspectors arrived at the premises:

Sunflower Room:

There were 22 preschool children (aged 2 years 1 month to 5 years 2 months) attending this room with 3 staff members and 1 student.

The child adult ratios were correct.

(8) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times.

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Non-Compliance Information

(1) During the period of inspection there were not an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

(2) The following adult: child ratios which were observed in the Busy Bees Room during the inspection were incorrect:

From 9am – 11.25am there were 15 preschool children (aged 3-4 years) attending this room with 1 qualified staff member and 2 students. A second qualified adult arrived to the room at 11.25am and remained for the rest of the inspection.

Two qualified adults are required at all times to satisfy the requirements of this regulation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has hired another full-time member of staff and are awaiting vetting.

The registered provider has also introduced an emergency staff ration procedure and risk assessment, going forward.

The registered provider will also use relief staff when necessary.

The emergency staff ratio procedure and risk assessment will be applied when 2 staff are unable to attend.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of emergency staff ration compliance procedure and risk assessment form.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has been reviewed and accepted. The non-compliance is addressed and will be for review at the next inspection.

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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, and

Compliance Information

There were 2 rooms in operation initially on the day of inspection, namely the Busy Bees and Sunflower Rooms. The Butterfly Room opened in the afternoon.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service:

Basic Needs:

- Lunches for morning and afternoon snacks were brought in by the children. In the Busy Bees and Sunflower Rooms, the lunches were observed to consist of crackers, fruits, yoghurt drinks, wraps and sandwiches. Drinks were available, and staff assisted any child who required help opening food. Dinner in the service was brought in from an outside caterer and served by the staff. Dinner consisted of fish fingers, peas, carrots, potatoes and gravy.
- In the Busy Bees Room attention was given to personal care such as fixing hair clips after nap time and nose blowing with staff providing help to do this. Children were promptly changed when clothing became soiled.
- The toilet trained children were encouraged to be independent with toileting, and discreet supervision was also provided by staff. Children were brought in from outside to use the toilet as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children after toileting, outdoor play and before dinner. Those children who were in 'pull ups' (nappies) were assisted in getting them changed and were checked regularly.
- The Busy Bees Room and the "Quiet Area" off it converted to a sleep room where children from the Busy Bees Rooms and the other 2 rooms who still required a lie down/ sleep were facilitated to do so. Although they were awakened for their dinner, all children were given the opportunity to get up in their own time with 1 child choosing and facilitated to lie on for an extra couple of minutes.
- In both care rooms the children were observed to move freely and had a change of environment to the outdoor area. The children were also dressed appropriately to go outside.

Supporting Relationships:

- Communication with parents was informally at drop off and pick up times and through an electronic application “the app” . It was also used to update parents on their child’s activities during the day such as a record of the food intake, toileting and sleep.
- The staff in all care rooms were observed to use gentle tones and positive language when communicating with children. Pleasant conversations were observed with staff members discussing and enquiring what the children did at the weekend.
- Staff and students promoted positive behaviour and interactions. Children were encouraged to play nicely with their friends, comments from staff and students such as “good sharing, that’s it” were observed.
- Staff and students were encouraging during play and activities, such as during a planned sea creature colouring activity where staff and students used comments such as “I love it, wow and well done”.
- Five-minute warnings and rhymes to get the children’s attention e.g. “Hands on your head ... show me you’re listening” were used to assist with transitions between activities in the Busy Bees and Sunflower Rooms.
- Children were provided with a choice for taking part in activities; for example, some children chose not to take part in the yoga poses activity, and they were observed exploring play areas in the care room during this 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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A lead from a wall-mounted electric heater was trailing and potentially accessible to the children in the Butterfly Room. This is a health and safety hazard.
2. Unprotected sharp corners were present on one side of a brown shelving unit in the Butterfly Room, posing a risk of injury to a child.
3. The water temperature in the sanitary areas where mixer taps were fitted reached a maximum of 44°C in the middle sink, and then reduced to 41.3 °C. It is acknowledged that staff outlined that the risk assessments include water temperature checks; however, no record was available on the day to

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demonstrate that the water had been checked. The maximum temperature for safe use of children is 43°C, anything higher presents a risk of scalding.

Infection Control:

4. The pedal operated bin in the sanitary accommodation off the Busy Bee Room was broken and required the lid to be lift by hand. This is an infection control risk.
5. The nappy bin used in the nappy changing area required staff to touch the bin in order to fully dispose of the soiled nappies, this is an infection control risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Lead has been pinned to the wall.
Recent staff training conducted to remind staff to add details to risk assessments.
2. Protectors added to the unit in question.
Recent staff training carried out with all staff to ensure that risk assessments performed in the morning and to document these dangers going forward.
3. The thermostat pumps were turned down at the mains.
Following staff training the staff are now aware of where the thermostat controls are located for completing check and adjusting if necessary.

Infection Control:

4. The registered provider replaced the bin. Recent staff training to include staff must report any broken or damaged equipment to management immediately.
5. Replaced nappy bin with a new one. These will be the exact bins that will be used going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response and supporting evidence was reviewed and accepted. The non-compliances have been addressed. These will be for review at the next 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) The registered provider ensured that there was a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children on the premises at all times. Four FAR certificates were reviewed.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available to the preschool children.

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) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. Fire drills were carried out monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on 4/3/2026.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment was last serviced on 8/5/2025 and the fire alarm on 24/11/25.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.