

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021CC007
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Respond Early Years Service, Carraig Liath
-------------------------	--

Address of Service:	Community Building, Carraig Liath, Midleton, Co Cork
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	P25 R968
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa O'Rourke
-------------------------------------	---------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date of Inspection:	27/05/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	6
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurranaברה, Cork T23 X440.
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Respond Early Years Service, Carraig Liath was established in 2021. It is registered as a full day care service, which caters for children aged 1 to 6 years. This includes children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is facilitated between 9.00am and 12.00pm, each Monday to Friday, over a 38-week annual period. The service's registered opening hours are from 8.00am to 6.00pm, however, it is currently operating until 5.00pm daily. While the setting is registered to provide school age care, this is not currently offered.

The detached, two-storey, premises is located in a residential area of Midleton, in east Cork. On the ground floor of the building, there are two operational care rooms, along with children's sanitary facilities, a designated sleep room, an entrance area, a kitchen, a utility room and a storage room. An office, a staff canteen and adult toilet facilities are available on the first floor. There are two outdoor play areas on site; one accessible from the Toddler room and the second accessible from the Pre-school room. The registered provider is a multiple service provider.

Staffing

There are nine adults attached to the childcare facility, with six of these adults involved in the direct care of the early years children. The registered provider and the regional manager are not based at the premises and a third adult works in the kitchen.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN1885	27/05/2026	On review of the staff files, it was noted that a certified translation for a police vetting disclosure was unavailable in respect of one adult, who had access to the children.
Status	A designated manager submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventive actions, which were accepted by the Inspectorate.	
Improvement Notice IN1887	27/05/2026	On review of the staff files, it was noted that a certified translation for a police vetting disclosure was unavailable in respect of a second adult, who was not onsite.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Status	A designated manager submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventive actions, which were accepted by 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) The registered provider had appointed a person in charge of operating the early years service and a named deputy had also been assigned. This information was displayed in writing.
 - (b) The duration of the inspection was facilitated by the person in charge. The staff rosters indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy was available at all times, while the children were present.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge, it was determined that five new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. A total of five files were reviewed.
- (a) Ten written and validated references were required in total. Of these, eight had been provided by past employers.
- (b) Two further references had been obtained and validated from sources other than previous employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the five adults. Garda vetting for two additional adults had also been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Review of the curricula vitae indicated that police vetting was not required for three of the five adults.
- (4) There was evidence that two of the three adults who worked directly with the children, had attained major awards in early childhood care and education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications. The third adult, who did not have the required qualification, had a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d)
- It was not possible to determine the requirement or otherwise for additional police vetting, in respect of one adult, as their curriculum vitae was incomplete.
 - See also statutory notice section, in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN1885 and Improvement Notice IN1887 served.
- (3) As per part (2)(d), two certified translations for police vetting had not been obtained before these adults commenced their roles at the childcare facility.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (d) The written reply from the registered provider outlined that the staff member's CV was updated to account for full employment history. The relevant police vetting was sent to a certified translation service on the day of inspection and the translated document was forwarded to early years inspector, before the staff member returned to working directing with the children. The staff file checklist has been updated, to include ensuring

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

that there are no gaps in CVs and that translation of police vetting is obtained. The recruitment procedure has also been updated.

- (3) The two police vetting records were translated and certified by a registered translator. Neither staff member engaged in contact work again, until approval was given. As a preventive measure, the staff file checklist was updated to ensure that translation of police vetting is obtained via a registered translator.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the adult's updated CV, copies of the translated police vetting documents, a copy of the staff file checklist and a copy of the service's recruitment procedure.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted by the registered provider are accepted in meeting the regulatory requirements.

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

- (1) During the onsite inspection, it was observed that an adequate number of adults were involved in the direct care of the children.
- (2) The adult child ratio was correct and maintained:
- During the morning, there were 3 adults responsible for the direct care and education of 11 children, across the 2 care rooms, who were aged 1 to 4 ½ years.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- In the afternoon, 6 children, with an age range of 1 to 4 ½ years were in attendance and these children were in the care of 3 adults. The person in charge was also available to provide cover, as needed.

- (8)
- (a) According to the staff roster, the service was operated with at least two adults present at all times. A minimum of two adults were also on duty throughout the inspection process.

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

(1)(a)

Programme of activities:

- The setting implemented a play based, emergent curriculum.
- Various themes were explored as part of the programme of activities. Evidence of this practice was visible through the short and medium term plans displayed in the care rooms; colours, emotions, summer transport and the senses, were among the topics included for the month of May. While much of the curriculum was planned in advance, the inspector was advised that the children's emerging interests also played a significant role in guiding weekly activities. For example, teddy bears' picnic was the theme of the week in the Toddler room and the children in the Preschool room were exploring airplanes.
- Photographs in the group learning journals depicted the various topics explored by the children throughout the year and a staff member informed the inspector that this was also used to reflect on said activities and to inform future plans.
- Children were noted to partake in a variety of play throughout the day, including construction, imaginary play, arts and crafts and outdoor exploration.
- The adults promoted language development through informal conversation, singing and reading stories.
- The children were afforded opportunities to make decisions and have their decisions respected, as was observed in the Preschool room. When the children had finished making and decorating paper airplanes, they were invited to choose their next activity, which the staff member readily accommodated.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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-

(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)(b)

- The rest needs of children aged under 2 years were accommodated in a designated sleep room, adjoining the Toddler room. This was furnished with four standard cots and safety mattresses.
- A supply of stackable beds was provided for children aged over 2 years, along with fitted sheets and linen.
- In each care room, there were suitably furnished rest areas available to the children. These spaces included brightly coloured floor mats, cushions, vinyl seating and books.

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 risk of unauthorised entry to the service and the risk of a child exiting the premises unsupervised, were reduced through ensuring the security of the main entrance door, when it was not in use.
- Enclosures of fencing, walls and gates were provided in the designated outdoor play areas. Fob keys were required to gain access to and exit from these play spaces.
- Glass panelling at child height was fitted with visibility strips, which reduced the risk of a child sustaining a collision injury.
- Window blind cords were securely anchored with suitable tension devices.
- All of the examined play resources appeared to be in good working order.

Infection control:

- Adequate handwashing and drying facilities were in place. The children in the Toddler room were supervised by an adult, as they washed their hands after returning from outdoor play and after having

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

their nappies changed. A child in the Pre-school room was observed to wash their hands after a messy play activity.

- Single use aprons and gloves were available for the adults' use when carrying out nappy changing and were observed to be worn for this purpose. It was also noted that aprons and gloves were changed in between nappy changing procedures and that the nappy changing mat was sanitised.
- In the sanitary facility adjoining the Toddler room, the children's toiletries were stored on individually labelled shelves.
- All of the cot mattresses in use were observed to be waterproof, which facilitated effective cleaning.
- Cots were well spaced apart, which reduced the risk of cross infection.

Administration of medication:

- Temperature reducing medication was safely stored out of the children's reach, had been labelled and was in date.

Safe sleep:

- A sample of the written sleep logs available, indicated that children were monitored at frequent intervals, in relation to their position, colour and breathing.

Fire safety:

- Fire exits routes were free from obstruction and fire exit signage was clearly visible.
- Fire extinguishers were securely wall mounted.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) Three adults had completed First Aid Response (FAR) training, with the corresponding certificates on file. Review of this information in conjunction with the staff roster, indicated that an adult with current FAR training was available to the children at all times, while the service was in operation.
- (2)
- (a) A first aid box was accessible in both care rooms, with each stored in an area that was easily retrieved by adults, while out of reach of children.
 - (b) The first aid boxes were available at all times, for use as needed.

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) Monthly fire drill records were presented for review and indicated that a recent fire drill had been undertaken on 6 May 2026.
 - (b) Certificates on display demonstrated that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 30 March 2026 and the smoke alarm was serviced on 20 February 2026.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) Notices describing the steps to be taken in the event of a fire, were displayed in both care rooms. Fire evacuation plans are also visible.