

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC141
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Name of Service:	Eden Childcare Early Years Ltd
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Address of Service:	Knockbarry, Buttevant, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P51 CD96
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Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan O'Connor
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	27/08/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	53	PM	35
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Second Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Collins
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

Eden Childcare Early Years Limited, is a privately run service registered to provide full day care, part time and sessional care for children aged from 1-6 years and is registered to provide school aged care. The service operates the National Childcare Scheme and the Early Childhood care and Education schemes.

This early childhood care and education facility is based on the outskirts of Buttevant in North Cork.

The service operates from 7:30 AM and 6 PM Monday to Friday, closing for two weeks during the summer.

The service operates from a wing of the registered providers home with two additional care and education rooms outside comprising in total of four care rooms. There is a spacious outdoor playground available to the children and ample off-road parking to facilitate the safe drop off and collection of the children.

Staffing

There are 12 staff inclusive of the registered provider working directly with the pre-school children. Not all staff that work with the pre-school children were present on the day of inspection.

The registered provider also employs additional staff to provide care to the school aged children, work in the office and prepare the meals for the children.

The staff working in the service providing care to the pre-school children held a recognised qualification in early childhood care and education or a qualification deemed by the minister to be equivalent.

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

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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.

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,

(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

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(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 had a named person in charge who was present on the day of inspection. In the absence of the person in charge there was a named deputy.

(2)

There was a total of 17 adults attached to the service in childcare roles, school aged care roles, ancillary roles in the kitchen and in the office. Six of these staff were new to the service since the last inspection and their staff files were reviewed along with three staff files for review of Garda vetting renewal.

(a) Of the 12 written and validated references required, 11 were available from past employers.

(b) Of the 12 written and validated references required, one was available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) The six new staff had appropriate Garda vetting and three staff had their Garda vetting renewed in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

(d) Police vetting was available for the four adults whose file was assessed and which indicated that they had lived outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) Of the six new staff to the service, four required a qualification at level five or above on the National Qualifications Framework. Three qualification certificates were on file and a letter of eligibility to practice was on file for the fourth staff member.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) All vetting procedures were not completed as per (2) above before one adult commenced working in the service. Not ensuring all staff are appropriately vetted prior to commencing in the service may allow adults that may not be suitable have access to children.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(3) The service has reviewed their recruitment policy and will implement this fully ensuring that no staff member starts in the service and has access to children prior to being vetted fully.

Supporting documentation submitted

(3) A copy of the recruitment policy has been received.

Summary Comment

The requirements for this regulation as assessed has been met.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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.

Compliance Information

- (2) There were four care rooms in operation on the day of inspection.
- The Sunflower room had two staff caring for seven children attending on a part-time and full day care basis. All children were all aged 1 year.
 - The Bluebell room had two staff caring for seven children all seven children were attending on a full day care basis and were aged between 1-2 years.
 - The Poppy room had 20 children attending in the morning with two staff caring for them. In the morning a sessional service was operating. In the afternoon there were 12 children who were being cared for on a full day care basis and two staff caring for them.
 - The Daisy room had children aged from 3-5 years attending. There was as sessional service operating on the morning of inspection with 18 children attending and 9 children remained on and were cared for on a full day care basis. There were three staff working in the morning with one staff member there providing additional support under the Access and Inclusion Model scheme (AIM) and two staff remained caring for the children who remained for full day care.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) The attendance of each child was recorded on the services IT system and/or on the roll books maintained. Each child's attendance was logged.
- (i) The staff roster was available for the inspector. The details on the roster were accurate to what the staff stated they were working on the day.
- (j) A sample of 13 medication records were reviewed across all four care rooms. All records had a request form signed by a parent/guardian available to the staff to ensure that they had the correct details of what medication , the dose, frequency of administration and route of administration detailed. Following each episode of administration of a medication two staff had signed the records, and this was counter signed by parents/guardians ensuring they were aware of the medication being administered.
- (k) A sample of 14 accident and incident forms from across the four care rooms were reviewed. All records had evidence of the incident being recorded and the staff and parent/guardian signatures

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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

Basic Needs:

- The children's needs were met around food provision. Snacks that were brought in from home and were served in the morning. Dinner which was prepared onsite was served to all children attending for full day care and part-time day care provision. This consisted of mash potatoes, beef stew and vegetables.
- Children that required nappy changes were changed on a routine basis and children were also changed as required. Records of these were maintained.
- The older children used the toilet independently and assistance was given with the younger children who needed reminders with hand washing and with their clothing.
- The temperature of three of the four care rooms was comfortable with the temperatures ranging from 20.9 to 21.6°C in the Poppy, Sunflower and Bluebell rooms The windows were open to allow for ventilation and ensure the comfort of the children.
- There were rest areas accessible to the children in all care rooms where they could rest and opt out of activities as they wished. There were child sized couches, mats and floor cushions.
- The children were free to move about and access the equipment independently.
- The children slept on a routine basis after dinner. No child was observed to require sleep outside of these times.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

1. The temperature of the Daisy room was recorded at 23.2°C at 11.56am, this exceeded the range of temperature from 18-22°C which afford children comfort in their environment.
2. Two children aged 22 months were observed to be sleeping on stackable beds, the person in charge stated floor beds were available but in storage. Using stackable beds for children aged 22 months was not in keeping with guidance on the sleep equipment needed for children aged under 24 months and were not sufficiently

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comfortable/ conducive to sleeping for children of this age. These would not offer the children the same level of support and comfort as they would have when sleeping in a cot

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The registered provider has provided updated training to the staff on the requirements for room temperatures to be maintained. An air conditioning unit is available in this care room.
2. Floor beds are now in use for children under the age of 2 years.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. The Staff training record has been received.
2. The safe sleep policy indicating the use of floor beds for children under the age of 2 years has been received along with photographic evidence of the floor beds in use.

Summary Comment

The requirements for this regulation as assessed have been met.

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 doors into the service were secured with electromagnetic locks and no child could leave the premises unattended.
- The outdoor space was secured by a series of gates and secure high fencing.
- The window openings were out of the reach of the children, and the windows were a sash mechanism that would not allow children to climb out.
- Blind cords were out of reach of the children.
- The electric cables were out of reach of the children and were made safe.
- The toys assessed were safe and did not appear to have any pinch or crush points.
- The cleaning equipment was stored out of reach of the children on high shelves or in locked presses.
- There was no full-length glass door which may cause an injury to a child.
- No hot drinks were consumed by the staff near the children.

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Infection Control:

- Children were observed to wash hands after messy play, before having their meals and after coming in from outside.
- The bags and coats for the children were stored off the ground on accessible hooks ensuring the coats would not be contaminated.
- The windows were opened to ensure good air circulation throughout the service.
- The rubbish was inaccessible, all bins inside were lidded and pedal operated.
- Tables were cleaned with appropriate disinfectant after tabletop activities and before snack and lunch time.
- There was hot water in the sinks in the children's toilets and nappy changing facilities. The water temperatures recorded in the sinks the children had access to ranged from 27.2 to 35.4°C across the sinks in the care rooms and toilet wash hand basins.
- There was liquid hand soap and paper towels beside each sink.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered on the day of inspection. Records of previous medication administration are recorded on Regulation 16.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were monitored by a staff member with, in room supervision provided in all three care rooms; Sunflower, Bluebell and Poppy rooms when children were sleeping.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit doors were not blocked.
- The firefighting equipment was safely tethered to the walls for ease of use should they be required.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The hot water in the wash hand basin in the nappy changing area of the Sunflower room was recorded at 46.8°C. Water temperatures of this level pose a risk of a scald injury to a child. It is acknowledged that one of the staff members caring for the children in this care room had identified that the water was hot and stated they were washing the children's hands with the cold water.

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Infection Control:

- During two episodes of nappy changing in one care room the staff member was observed not to wear a disposable apron when changing soiled nappies. Not using personal protective equipment when changing nappies may cause contamination of the staff clothing and cause cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The hot water in the Sunflower room has been checked and is now thermostatically controlled. Staff training has been provided and signage in place to remind staff of the process of how to put taps out of use should the water be too hot.

Infection Control:

- The staff have received external training on nappy changing procedures; this has also been completed on a one-to-one basis with the staff. New signage has been put in place beside nappy changing units to ensure good practice.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Photographic evidence of water temperatures being assessed have been received. Photographic evidence of the signage in place has been received.

Infection Control:

- A copy of the training module has been received. A copy of the new signage has been received.

Summary Comment

The requirements for this regulation as assessed have been met.

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.

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Non-Compliance Information

1. Following review of the roster as provided by the person in charge and following conversation on the availability of staff with first aid training it was determined that no staff member with first aid training was available between 7.30-8.30 and 5.30 -6. This may allow for the potential that a suitably qualified first aid qualified staff member may not be available to the children if required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The roster has been reviewed, and FAR trained staff are now available to cover the opening hours of the service. In addition to this further staff are booked in for training on First Aid Essentials-Paediatric First Aid.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Evidence of staff being booked into first aid training has been received.

Summary Comment

With the evidence submitted by the registered provider and the staff training taking place the requirements for this regulation have been met.