

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN039
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Corfree Kids Ltd
-------------------------	------------------

Address of Service:	Corfree, Lough Gowna, Co. Cavan
----------------------------	---------------------------------

Eircode:	H12 HE44
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Colette O'Reilly
-------------------------------------	------------------

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

Date of Inspection:	13/07/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	9
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna
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

Corfree Kids Ltd (previously Little Rascals) is a privately owned service in operation since 1999. This service operates from a converted garage beside a private residence outside the village of Lough Gowna in Co. Cavan. The service operates from 8.30 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and provides full-day care, part-time and sessional care to pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). The service caters for a maximum of 25 pre-school children. A school aged service is provided. There is off-street parking available for drop off and collection. The premises consist of 1 playroom, and there is access to an outdoor play area to the rear and front of the premises. A prefabricated building adjacent to the preschool room was not in operation for preschool children and was not inspected.

Staffing

On the day of the inspection, there were six staff members employed in the service, including the registered provider. Two staff members are employed to work with school-aged children, one staff member is employed for cooking duties, and three staff members work directly with the preschool children.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 Management & Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels, Regulation 19 Health, Welfare & Development of Child, Regulation 22 Food and drink, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child, Regulation 24 Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance, Regulation 25 First Aid, Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures, Regulation 27 Supervision, and Regulation 28 Insurance.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

(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 designated person in charge, who is the registered provider and a named person to deputise in their absence.

(b) Following discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation, the designated person in charge or the named person in charge was on the premises.

(2) (a) (b) The references on file for 6 staff were compliant upon the service's last inspection; therefore, they were not reviewed upon this inspection.

(c) Garda vetting for 1 staff reviewed upon the last inspection met regulatory compliance; therefore, they were not reviewed upon this inspection. Four of five staff members whose vetting was due for renewal were available on file as required. The registered provider did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice for one staff member, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(d) A review of the employment history for 6 staff was compliant upon the services' last inspection and therefore were not reviewed upon this inspection.

(4) The qualifications for 3 childcare staff present at the last inspection were compliant; therefore, they were not reviewed upon this inspection. A qualification for the two school-aged staff and the cook is not required, as they are not employed to work directly with preschool children.

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) On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained so throughout the inspection. The following adult to child ratios were observed:

Two adults cared for 9 preschool children aged 4 years to 5 years 2 months, all of whom attended on a full-day basis.

In addition to the above, 13 school-aged children were present, along with one school-aged staff member.

(8) A review of staff attendance records demonstrated that the registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises during operating hours.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and well-being were facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs

Snack time was observed to be relaxed, where staff provided support to the children if needed and used this time as an opportunity to have conversations of interest with the children. The children were observed to use the toilet independently, with staff support provided where needed. Toilets were located directly off the care room. Spare clothing was available for the children, and aprons were provided for messy play and water activities. All of the children took part in outdoor play and were observed to be dressed appropriately for the warm weather on the day. The rest area in the preschool room included a sofa, which allowed children the opportunity to take time out to rest during their day. Stackable beds and bed linen were available; however, no children required a sleep on the day of inspection.

Supporting Relationships

The staff demonstrated sensitivity, warmth and positive regard for children through the use of gentle tones while interacting with the children. The children appeared familiar with those who cared for them and called on the staff for support if needed. Conversations between staff and children were observed about the children's home life, including holidays and football matches, demonstrating a strong relationship and awareness among the staff of the children's lives outside of the service. Communication with families is in person at arrival and collection time. The staff team were observed to work well together with transitions managed smoothly, while the children were given appropriate lead-in times to what would happen next in their daily routine.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

The service provides a hot meal daily to children in attendance on a full-day care basis. A copy of a 3-week rolling menu was available, which detailed the hot meal served to the children daily at 4 pm, which is cooked by the service cook. The hot meals listed on the menu, while taking into consideration the age of children, provided a suitable, nutritious and varied choice for children. The children enjoyed a healthy snack which had been prepared by their parents/ guardians and served at 11.15 am and 1.15 pm. Snacks consisted of sandwiches, fruit, meats, cheese, rolls and rice cakes. Additional snacks to include fruit or crackers are available outside of set snack and meal times. The children's drink bottles were available and accessible in the care rooms throughout 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 inspector observed the following safety measures in practice within the service:

The main entrance door was secured upon the inspector's arrival. Ground surfacing, both indoor and outdoor were maintained in a good state of repair. Storage areas were inaccessible to children. Cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children. Play equipment and resources were observed to be maintained in good condition. The outdoor areas were secured by gates and fencing to prevent a pre-school child from gaining unsupervised access to a roadway or other source of danger. Risk assessments were completed up to date. Fire exits remained free from obstruction throughout the inspection.

Infection Control:

The inspector observed the following infection control measures in practice within the service:

Handwashing was observed to take place after the children used the toilet and before snack times. Warm water, hand soap, bins, and paper towels were available at each wash hand basin. The care room and sanitary area were

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

ventilated with openable windows. The service was presented in a clean and hygienic manner. Cleaning schedules were in place and completed up to date. Children's snacks taken in from home, which contained perishable food items, were stored in the fridge in the preschool room. External waste bins were stored securely and were inaccessible to the children.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In respect of 1 out of 6 staff members, the service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years, as a period in excess of 3 years had elapsed since their Garda vetting disclosures were issued.
2. Leads from a photocopier, phone charger and extension lead were not secured, which poses a risk of harm to a child. The leads were located next to a cupboard where children were observed retrieving art materials.

Infection Control:

3. The pedal bin in use in the preschool room had a broken pedal. Staff and children were observed lifting the bin lid with their hands, which poses an infection control risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was applied for immediately. Ensure all staff members' Garda vetting is kept up to date.
2. Pedal bins were installed immediately. Replace pedal bins as required.

Infection Control:

3. Furniture was rearranged to safely conceal wires from children at all times. Ensure all wires are kept out of reach of children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of completed Garda vetting. Photographic evidence of furniture moved and leads behind a unit.

Photographic evidence of a new pedal bin in place.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted have adequately addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 23.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider used written records which detailed each child's arrival and departure time on a daily basis.*
- (3) (a) The registered provider ensured that only preschool children, a person dropping off or collecting a preschool child, an employee, or an unpaid worker can enter the premises upon the staff's approval.*
- (b) A visitor log book was maintained.*

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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that a person who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. The registered provider held an in-date FAR training certificate.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a) & (b)

A suitably equipped first aid box for children was not available; all the materials except triangular bandages had passed their expiry date.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

New complete first aid box purchased. First aid box will be replaced as products expire.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of new first aid kit with expiry date of February 2028.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted have adequately addressed the non-compliance in Regulation 25 (2) (a) (b).

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 record of monthly fire drills that take place was available. The most recent fire drill was recorded on 04 June 2026.

(b) The annual maintenance certificate for the fire extinguishers was dated 19 November 2025, and the smoke alarms were dated 18 October 2025.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed on walls in the preschool room, which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.

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

On the day of the inspection, the inspector observed the staff members appropriately supervising the children in attendance. The service was operating a free-flow system between indoors and outdoors. The staff members worked well together, ensuring that they were positioned to supervise the children indoors and also positioned themselves strategically outdoors to ensure all children were in sight at all times. At snack time, staff members sat alongside the preschool children, offering support if needed while also promoting independence. Independence was also encouraged at toileting times for children.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had insurance cover in place for 25 pre-school children attending the service on a full-day care basis. The policy showed that the service had insurance in place from 28 March 2026 to 27 March 2027.