

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL070
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Name of Service:	Clochán Cora Ltd.
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Address of Service:	Whitestown Road, Rush, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K56 NX82
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Name of Registered Provider:	Collette Kelly
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford
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

Clochán Cora Ltd. is a sessional early years service operated from a single storey purpose-built premises located to the rear of a registered provider's home on the outskirts of Rush in North County Dublin. The service was established by the registered provider in 2006 and is conducted from one pre-school room with double doors in place leading to an adjoining covered play space and to an adjoining fully enclosed outdoor play area. The service operates during term-time for 38 weeks each year and is registered to accommodate a maximum of 22 pre-school children aged between 2 and 6 years. Clochán Cora Ltd. participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.00am to 12.00midday each weekday with the option provided for the children to attend for an extra 30 minutes from 12.00 to 12.30pm daily for an additional fee.

Staffing

The service employs three staff to include the registered provider who is the designated person in charge and two early years educators.

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

The unannounced inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 26 and 28. 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 -

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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.

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.

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Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)(d) (4) The registered provider confirmed that no new staff had been employed in the service since the last inspection. The files for three staff members had been reviewed on the last inspection and deemed compliant.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three staff employed in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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) During the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(3) The registered provider and 2 staff members were working directly with 21 children aged from 3 years to 5 years of age.

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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-

(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

(1)(b)

- Staff were observed interacting with the children in a calm, respectful and appropriate manner.
- The children appeared confident and comfortable in their environment and accessed the toilet and play areas independently with staff providing respectful supervision when required.
- The children were familiar with the daily routine of the service and were given clear and consistent guidance by staff which enabled smooth and organised transitions between activities, snack time and handwashing.
- Strategies such as organising and planning in advance facilitated smooth transitions through mealtimes and activities.
- Staff used positive strategies to manage children behaviour such as running commentary on activities, clear instructions and careful positioning of children and equipment.
- All children had access to a rest area consisting of soft seating, cushions and blankets.
- Staff were familiar with the children and their individual personalities, preferences and abilities.
- Children were observed to have the opportunity to move freely throughout the care room and independently access activities of their choice.
- Staff used an electronic application to update parents on activities undertaken, upcoming themes and planned events. Parents could also speak directly to staff at drop off and collection times.

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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:

- Entry to the service was secured when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service. There was a door lock system in place which was managed and monitored by staff. This restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- The outdoor gates were fitted with locks inaccessible to the children.
- All cleaning agents and sharp equipment were stored out of reach of the children in locked presses or on high shelves.
- Low level windows and all blind cords in the care rooms were secured.
- Areas within the care rooms were observed to be suitable and appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use hand towels were available at all wash hand basins used by the children and the staff members.
- All children were supported to hand wash after outdoor play, after using the toilet and before mealtimes.
- Children's perishable food from home was refrigerated on arrival to the service and staff were observed cleaning the tables before and after lunch.
- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules in operation within the care room and sanitary facility. The care room and sanitary facility had open windows to extract any stale air.

Administration of Medication:

- A system and documentation were available if medication was required for a child. No medication was administered to a child during the inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed in the service and all fire equipment to include fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were serviced yearly.

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- The designated fire exits were illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection.

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 written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 18 June 2026.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. Fire extinguishers were serviced on the 7 July 2025, and smoke alarms were serviced on the 13 January 2026.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises.

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 22 pre-school children attending the service on a sessional basis. The policy showed that the service was insured until 27 March 2027.