

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY204			
Name of Service:	Oakwood Creche Limited			
Address of Service:	9 Lower Newcastle, Newcastle, Co. Galway			
Eircode:	H91 U400			
Name of Registered Provider:	Orla Wynne			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time			
Date of Inspection:	22/07/2026			
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM	28
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Office. Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 2, First Floor, Loughrea Shopping Centre, Loughrea, Co Galway H62 XR82			
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Kelly.			
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

This private operated service and offers a full day care and part-time care provision from 08:00hrs to 18.00hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and full day care programmes are also offered. This childcare service premises is located in the Newcastle area of Galway city. The service has five playrooms, one dedicated sleep room and an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider works on the premises on a daily basis. There were 10 adults working in the service on the day of inspection, which included the registered provider and a cook, who prepared all the meals on the premises.

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, 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

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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, 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,*
- (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.*

(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*

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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 was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

It was confirmed that there were 10 members of staff employed in the service, which included the registered provider, deputy person in charge, childcare staff and 1 kitchen staff.

- (2)(a) Of the 20 references required, there were 14 written and appropriately validated references available from a previous employer.
- (b) Of the required 20 references required, there were 6 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than a recent
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all the staff working in the service.
- (d) Police vetting disclosures were available for five adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months.
- (4) There were 9 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an 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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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.

Compliance Information

(1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On the day of inspection, there were 27 pre-school children attending the service in the morning and 28 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

At 10.30 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

(2) Nursery room (12 months to 18 months)- there were 2 adults caring for 5 infants.

Rainbow room (2 years to 3 years)- there was 1 adult caring for 4 children.

Butterfly room (3 years of age)- there was 1 adult caring for 6 children.

Caterpillar room (3 years of age)- there was adults caring for 8 children.

Ladybird room (2 to 3 years)- there was 1 adult caring for 4 children.

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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 a person trained in first aid was immediately available to the preschool children attending the service. There was one adult trained in First Aid Responder available to the children and a further seven staff members trained in First Aid.
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available to the children, the contents were checked on a regular basis by a staff member.
- (b) The first aid box was conveniently located in the playrooms of the service and in the office.

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) Written records of the fire drills undertaken in the service were kept by staff with the last fire drill recorded as having been undertaken on the 21/06/2026.
- (b) A certificate of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was dated in April 2026. It stated that all of the firefighting equipment was fully serviced. The service record for the maintenance of the smoke alarms stated the last service took place on the 16/06/26.

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- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the playrooms and in the corridor.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had insurance with an expiry date 27th of March 2027, which was for a full day care service for 36 children, included the following: -

- public liability insurance
- insurance against fire and theft
- buildings insurance

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

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS

- Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snacks without being rushed. The atmosphere during snack time was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff. The staff were observed sitting with the children while they enjoyed/ate their food and speaking to them.
- The staff responded to children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to toileting. The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. Children were allowed to take their time during toileting. Staff encouraged and supported children to become more independent in toileting practices.

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- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence and to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills. The children were observed washing their hands prior to lunch time.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance. The children spent a large proportion of the day in the outdoor play area. The children in the Caterpillar room in one of the upstairs playrooms had direct access to an outdoor space, the children were observed playing in this space during the inspection.
- The children had access to relaxation areas and soft seating in all the playrooms, these areas were used on a few occasions throughout the session. The staff provided for each child's comfort and their need for sleep, rest and relaxation. The younger children were put down to sleep in the cot room and the older children were put down to sleep on stackable beds in the Wobbler room. Any child that did not require sleep was facilitated in another playroom or could play in the outdoor play area.
- Children's behaviour was positively reinforced. Children were encouraged and praised throughout the session; this was observed on numerous occasions during the inspection.

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-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day

Non-Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, the 8 mattresses used in the sleep room for children under the age of 2 years of age were not suitable. They were not firm, not covered in a waterproof material and were not in good condition. The cot mattresses did not offer appropriate and safe facilities for the children to rest or sleep.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply

Corrective and Preventive Action

New mattresses and mattress cover were ordered and now in place. The staff will regularly check the condition of the mattresses to ensure they are maintained.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of the receipts for the mattresses and mattresses covers were submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and the evidence submitted. The non compliances identified under regulation 20 have been adequately addressed.