

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KK016
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Name of Service:	Clever Cats Childcare
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Address of Service:	7 Blackchurch Square, Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny
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Eircode:	R95 YP22
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Name of Registered Provider:	Suzanne Coughlan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	38	PM	34
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate. Ely hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry, L O Connor.
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Clever Cats Childcare service is situated in the village of Inistioge in county Kilkenny. The service provides full day care, part-time and sessional day care services to preschool children aged from 6 months to 6 years. It is also registered to provide a school age service. Opening hours are Monday to Friday, from 07:45 until 18:00. The service is operated from a purpose-built childcare building comprising of four preschool rooms, a baby room, a wobbler room, a toddler room and a preschool room upstairs. There are two outdoor play areas, one to the rear of the service and one to the side of the service which has direct access from the wobbler room.

Staffing

There are 10 staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff who were working directly with the preschool children held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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

The inspection focused on the following regulations.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4)

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Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),
Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child,
Regulation 22 Food and Drink,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).
Regulation 28 Insurance,
Regulation 29 Premises.

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

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN	14/04/2026	Poor practice in relation to the provision of safe sleep observed as follows: - Staff were not consistently entering the sleep rooms to check the sleeping children. - The temperature in one of the sleep rooms was recorded between 22 and 23.6 degrees Celsius while children over one slept. - Staff were made aware of the temperatures but did not address the risk. - A child aged between one and two was distressed in a cot room. When asked staff were not aware who was responsible for this child. The inspector requested a staff member to attend to the child.
Status	Response received 15/04/26 The registered provider responded on 15 th April 2026 and provided detail of actions taken to address the risk identified. This response was adequate.	
Improvement Notice IN	14/04/2026	Lack of access to outdoor play in the wobbler room. A staff member stated the children in the wobbler room had not been out to play since the summer of 2025. This practice is contrary to the outdoor play policy in place in the service which states children will be given access to outdoor play for a minimum of 30 minutes every day.

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Status	Response received 16/04/26 accepted.
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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.

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Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The manager was the person in charge on the day of inspection. There was a person available to deputise when the manager was absent.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 10 staff employed in the service. All written and validated references were available on file for staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for all staff working directly with the children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)

There was an adequate number of staff working with the children on the morning of the inspection.

(2)

At 10:30

Ecce

There were 21 children aged from 3 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.

At 10:35

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Toddler

There were 9 children aged 2 to 3 years and 1 child aged 1 to 2 years in the care of two staff.

Wobbler

10:38

There were 2 children aged between 1 and 2 years and 2 children aged between 2 and 3 years in the care of one staff member

Baby room

At 10:40

There were 3 children aged between 1 and 2 in the care of 1 staff member.

The manager of the service was available to cover in the preschool rooms as required.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(2)

There was an inadequate number of staff working with the children on the afternoon of the inspection.

At 13:30

There was 1 staff with 7 children in the baby and wobbler room when 2 were required. (There were 5 children aged between 1 and 2 years of age and 2 children aged between 2 and 3 years of age.)

There were 9 children aged 2 to 3 and 1 child aged 1 to 2 in the toddler room in the care of 2 staff.

At 13:35 a staff member from the toddler room was called to assist a distressed child who was sleeping in the sleep room attached to the baby room.

There were 10 children (9 aged 2 to 3 years of age and 1 aged between 1 and 2 years of age) in the toddler room in the care of one staff member when two was required.

This regulation was found to be non-compliant on previous inspections in 2020, 2022 and 2023. The registered provider completed corrective and preventative responses following these inspections. The responses did not prevent a reoccurrence of the same non-compliance on this inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

There has been an additional staff member employed in the service since the inspection. The staff rota has been revised to include a roster of three staff to cover for breaks in the service. The manager will continue to review the staffing in the service and ensure the adult to child ratios are always maintained.

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Supporting documentation submitted

The new staff rota was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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

(1)(a)

Children were engaged in a variety of activities during the inspection. The staff in the toddler room were observed playing with the children and chatting to them during snack time. In the Wobbler room, the children were encouraged to self-feed. This was supported by the service through providing the children with plates to promote independence in scooping the food onto utensils. The staff member recognised the children's achievements and provided support to them, as required.

The interactions between staff and children were observed to be kind and considerate on the day of inspection. Circle time was observed in the ECCE room. Children were held and comforted and staff were observed to engage and listen to their news from home. Similar warm practices were observed in the Baby room and Wobbler room where children were provided with comfort by the staff throughout the inspection.

Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable on the children's likes, dislikes and family background. For example, the food in the Baby room was provided by the children's parents. The staff member outlined to the inspector each of the children's food preferences and how the service supported this through partnership with parents. In the Wobbler room, the staff member demonstrated a similar relationship with the children's families through conversations which were overheard which referenced the children's siblings, pets and extended family.

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The facilities for play indoors had been further developed since the last inspection. The layout of the ECCE room had been changed to include designated play sections for example a shop area and a construction area. The tables were laid out in curves. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this new lay out was to stimulate the children's free play activities and create interesting areas in the large room.

(b)

There were two sleep rooms in the service with full sized cots for children to sleep in. There were cot beds for older children to sleep in in the afternoon in the toddler room. Children were assisted when going to the toilet as required. Information on the children's daily activities were shared with parents on the mobile phone app in use in the service. The rest area in the ecce room was cosy with large comfortable cushions for the children to rest on during the day.

Nappy changes in the Baby room were child centred and respectful. Before nappy changes, the staff member was overheard to explain to the children that it was time to get their nappy changed. This created a sense of knowing for the children and supported the transition from the care room to the nappy changing area. During the nappy changes, the staff member chatted to the children about what was happening next, while also using playful tones with them. For example, during a nappy change, the staff member asked a child if they would like to hold their socks. The child responded by putting their hands out to hold the socks and started to blow raspberries. The staff member playfully responded with the same noise and the child began laughing. Providing a calm and playful experience for daily care practices promotes the relationship between the staff member and the child.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

1.

An improvement notice was issued to the service in relation to the lack of access to outdoor play for the children in the wobbler room. Please see relevant section in relation to statutory notices.

2.

The children in the Wobbler room were not provided with access to drinking water at times. At 12:00, two of the three children had red cheeks. In conversation, the staff member noted that the care room was warm and opened a window. The staff member outlined that the children were provided with a drink at mealtimes. Following a prompt from the inspector, the staff member provided the children with their drink bottles/ cups. The three

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children were observed to immediately take a drink. To acknowledge, the children's drink bottles remained accessible on the table for the remainder of the inspection. This practice was at variance of the service's healthy eating policy which outlined that drinking water was available throughout the day.

3.

Inspectors found that children in the Baby room did not have consistent access to outdoor play. The following was observed:

The children were not observed to be outdoors on the day of inspection. This was at variance with the service's outdoor play policy which outlined that outdoor play is an important part of the daily curriculum. Through discussion, the following was noted;

- a. The staff member outlined that the children in the baby room were brought on regular walks using the double buggy in the service. However, through further discussion it was clarified that this occurred when there were two of the four children present.
- b. The staff member explained that they felt the ground was too hard for babies to play on.

The noncompliance in relation to the provision of access to outdoor play in the service was found on inspection in 2020, 2022, and 2025. The registered provider completed corrective and preventative responses following these inspections. The responses did not prevent a reoccurrence of the same non-compliance on this inspection.

4.

The sleep practices of the service did not support the children who remained awake between 13:00 to 14:30 in the Baby and Wobbler rooms. The following was observed;

- a. In the Baby room, between 13:40 to 14:30 there was one child aged 1 to 2 years who was awake while the two other children slept. The staff member explained that while this child was provided an opportunity to sleep, the child did not settle. At 14:10, the inspectors observed that the child demonstrated signs of tiredness as they were laying on the staff member's shoulder with their eyes closed. However, at 14:20 the staff member was observed in the hallway carrying out other duties with the child who was awake. This child was brought from the baby room to the hallway on two other occasions while the staff member carried out other duties. The child was not provided with a further opportunity to sleep.

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- b. Between 13:00 to 14:00, the practices in the Wobbler room were adult led and did not cater for the awake child. At 13:00, three of the children were asleep in the adjoining cot room and there was one child aged 1 years old who was awake. The staff member explained to the inspector that they had this one-to-one time with this child each day during 13:00 to 14:00. The staff member outlined that this child would play for the hour and confirmed that an activity was not planned. The environment did not support solitary play as the equipment was observed to be tidied away. During the hour, the child was observed to aimlessly wander around the Wobbler room. And, on three occasions the child followed the staff member to the hallway and the Toddler room while they carried out other duties. It was deemed that this hour was adult led rather than child centred, as the staff member did not encourage the child to play through the physical environment or through providing an activity.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1.

Please see relevant section in relation to statutory notices.

2.

The children in the wobbler room now always have access to drinking water. The importance of providing adequate hydration for all children in the wobbler room has been discussed with the staff responsible for that room. The manager will continue to monitor the provision of hydration to younger children in the service.

3.

The children now have access to outdoor play daily. A daily timetable including all age-groups has been drawn up and displayed in each care room. This rota outlines the rota for each room to access the areas daily. The person in charge shall carry out spot-checks to ensure it is being followed.

4.(a)(b)

The registered provider and manager discussed and reviewed the safe sleep policy with all staff at a staff meeting. The importance of providing children who were not sleeping with a planned activity was restated to staff. The recruitment of the additional staff member will facilitate this further choice for the children. There are now sufficient staff to cover these times so there is no need for children to follow member of staff into the hall to carry out any duties. They now use this time to play with children one-on-one. The rooms have been redeveloped since the inspection with the provision of more age-appropriate toys such as pull to stand toys.

Supporting documentation submitted

1.

Please see relevant section in relation to statutory notices.

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2.

A photo of the drinks in place in an easily accessible position in the wobbler room was received by the inspector.

3.

The outdoor play policy and the new rota now in place was received by the inspector.

4.

The safe sleep policy was received. Photographs of new toys and equipment now in place in the wobbler and baby room was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

1.

The equipment available in the Baby and Wobbler rooms was not suitable for children's stages of development. The service's curriculum policy described how the equipment in each of the care rooms was suitable for the age of the children, and how it provided new exciting challenges and experiences for the children. The policy outlined how the environment was sensory rich and that equipment was easily accessible for children at a low level. The equipment and environment as described in the service policy was not observed to be in place. The following was noted;

2

Staff explained that children progress to the Wobbler room once they begin to walk and that push pull equipment had been moved from the Baby room to the Wobbler room as a result. Inspectors found that this equipment was not available to children in either room.

- a. The materials and equipment in the baby and Wobbler rooms were mostly plastic. In discussion with a staff member, they outlined that opportunities for sensory play, which included sand or water play, were not

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provided to the children. Other equipment or materials to provide sensory experiences with varying textures, smells or sounds were not available. This was at variance with the service's own policy.

- b. The equipment and materials were not easily accessible or visually inviting for the children to engage with in the Wobbler room. Large amounts of toy cars and animal figurines were stored in a plastic box. These were not easily accessible for the children due to the depth of the box and the age of the children.
- c. The service's curriculum policy outlined how the environment promotes play and children's independence. However, children's play was potentially restricted in the Wobbler room as supporting materials were not in place or were inaccessible. For example,
 - The supporting play equipment for the kitchen was stored in a box on top of the kitchen which was out of reach of the four children.
 - A child was observed to play with a doll during the morning. However, supporting equipment to extend their play, such as doll clothes, buggy, feeding or sleeping equipment was not in place.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1.
The provision of the play equipment and materials in the baby and wobbler room have been reviewed and updated since the inspection.

2. (a)(b)(c)
New age-appropriate toys have been purchased and installed in the wobbler room. The room has been rearranged to ensure all toys are accessible on low lying shelves for the children. Push and pull toys to promote gross motor development sensory play in the form of sand and water have been made available in both rooms. The areas of interest have been restocked and re imagined with the ages and stages of the children in mind.

Supporting documentation submitted

1.
Photo of wobbler room with toys and equipment re arranged and accessible.

2. (a)(b)(c).
A photo of push pull and pull to stand toys.
A photo of sand and waterplay in place in wobbler room,

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A receipt for the purchase of more toys and equipment which focuses on sensory play has been purchased for the children.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service. Parents provided morning snacks for children. The service provided breakfast, dinner at mid-day and a snack at mid-afternoon for the children. There was a 3-week rotating menu in place in the service. Children were served a freshly cooked dinner served from the onsite kitchen on the first day of the inspection. The children had chicken curry, rice and fresh vegetables served to them at midday. Children in the toddler and ECCE room were given water to drink with their meals. Their drink bottles were provided by their parents. Staff refilled them during the day for the children. The 3-week rotating menu included provision for fresh meat and vegetables cooked for the children daily.

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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:

Access to the service was gained through the front door by ringing a bell. There was a bell system connected to each care preschool room. Staff could confirm the identity of the person through the door prior to allowing them access to the service. The main stairway was well lit.

Infection Control:

The service appeared to be clean. There was a cleaning rota on display to prompt staff to clean the frequently used areas such as the corridors, toilets and the stair way.

Staff were observed to practice the service's nappy changing procedures. The staff members wore single use gloves and aprons during the nappy changes, which were appropriately removed prior to re-entering the care room. The changing mat was cleaned following each nappy change. Handwashing practices of the staff member and children was consistent at times including following nappy changes and prior to mealtimes, as per the service's policy. Staff members and children had access to warm water, soap and paper towels in each of the care rooms.

Safe sleep

Children over two slept on low level beds in the toddler room on the ground floor in the service. A staff member was observed to sit with and supervise the children while they were sleeping in the room.

Administration of medication

The service had an administration of medication policy. The policy was reviewed by the inspector. Previous records of medication consent were reviewed by the inspector. It was clearly documented; the consent was signed by the parent. There was a space on the form for the signature of two staff members to confirm they had checked the medication prior to administration.

Accident and Incidents

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The service had a policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service. The inspectors reviewed copies of eight accident and incident reports in the service. The documents reviewed were in line with the services policy and were signed by the parents of the children to confirm they had been informed of the incidents in the service.

Outings

The service had a policy in place to facilitate outings.

Non-Compliance Information

Safe Sleep:

An immediate action notice in relation to the provision of safe sleep in the service was issued to the registered provider on the day of inspection. Please see regulatory notice section of this report.

1.

At 13:30 a staff member who spoke to the inspector said a child aged 1 sleeping in a cot in the sleep room beside the toddler room had been sleeping for 40 minutes. The inspector asked to see how the sleep checks for the child were recorded. The service uses an app to record sleep checks; however, no records were available to demonstrate that checks had taken place for the child. This practice is at variance with the policy in place which states that sleep checks on children will be recorded every 10 minutes.

2.

There was loud music playing in the sleep room next to the baby room. Staff were unable to supervise by sound due to the noise levels in the room.

a.

The device used to monitor temperatures while children slept was not plugged in. During this time, a child aged 1 was sleeping, and the staff member was requested by the inspector to plug the device in.

b.

The safe sleep policy stated that staff should avoid overdressing children to reduce the likelihood of them overheating while asleep. This was practiced inconsistently. For example, of the four children aged 1 to 3 years who slept in the cot room adjoining the Toddler room: two children from the baby room slept fully

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clothed with a sleep bag while two children from the Toddler room were observed to sleep in their vest. The room temperature was recorded as 23.6°C at this time.

3.

Of the eight cots available for the children in the Baby, Wobbler and Toddler room, three cot sheets were observed to be loose fitting. This was at variance with the service's safe sleep policy which outlined there would be no loose bedding on cots mattresses.

Infection control

4.

The surface of 7 of the cots had chipped paint in various areas. This uneven surface posed an infection control risk as the surface could not be adequately cleaned.

5.

There was a sand box in the outdoor area which was not covered. This posed a risk of cross infection to the children from local cats.

6.

The nappy changing unit in the wobbler room was soiled. This posed a risk of cross infection to the children.

Fire Safety

7.

The inspectors were concerned in relation to the procedures in place in the event of the need to evacuate the younger children in the event of a fire.

At 13:30 there was one staff member caring for 7 children aged from 1 to 2 years of age. There was a double buggy available however this buggy was inadequate to evacuate all children aged from 1 to 2 years of age.

Between 13:50 to 14:10, one staff member confirmed that they were responsible for the evacuation of 6 children aged 1 to 3 years in the event of an emergency. Three of these children were not walking. In discussion, they outlined that in the event of an emergency; they would place two children into the double buggy and carry the remaining children. They outlined that an additional adult would be available to provide support. However, the adult named was working directly with another group of children during the time. The second person required to support evacuation was not available during breaks.

8.

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Following the previous inspection, the registered provider purchased a double buggy for use in an emergency evacuation. On the morning of inspection, this buggy was in a storage room, and it was not easily accessible. The practice of using a buggy in the event of an emergency evacuation was at variance with the procedure outlined in the service's fire safety policy which outlined the use of a fire evacuation cot. This may pose a risk of a delayed response in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Safe Sleep

1.

A staff meeting was held to discuss the findings of the report in relation to the provision of safe sleep in the service. The topic of the provision of safe sleep in the service will be kept on the agenda of all staff meetings in the service going forward. Staff have been reminded on the importance of visibly checking the sleeping children colour, position and breathing every 10 minutes and recording their observations as soon as they are made.

2.

The music device has been removed from the sleep room.

(a)

Staff have been reminded to ensure the thermometer in the sleep room is always plugged in.

(b).

Staff have been reminded to ensure all children are loosely dressed when being put down to sleep to avoid them overheating as stated in the services safe sleep policy.

3.

Infection control

4.

All cots in the service have been replaced with new cots.

5.

There is a new sandbox available in the service which has a removable wooden cover.

6.

The nappy changing unit has been cleaned and will be reviewed by the manager on a frequent basis.

Fire Safety

7.8.

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An evacuation cot has been purchased by the registered provider and is now available in an easily accessible place to ensure the safe evacuation of children who are not mobile.

Supporting documentation submitted

Safe Sleep

1.

A copy of the minutes of the recent staff meeting was received. The subject of the provision of safe sleep is now included on the template of staff meetings held in the service.

2 (a)(b).

No evidence.

3.

Minutes of staff meeting received by the inspector where the policy was shared with staff received.

Infection control

4.

A receipt for the purchase of 7 cots was received by the inspector.

5.

A photograph of the new sand box and lid was received by the inspector.

6.

Fire Safety

7.8.

A receipt for the purchase of two evacuation cots was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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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)

There was a person trained in first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending preschool service. There was evidence that there were 5 staff trained in a first aid responder course available to the children attending the service, which was sufficient to cover across the rota in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two suitably equipped first aid boxes stored in an easily accessible position to the staff on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

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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)

There was a template in place to record any fire drill that takes place in the service. The last fire drill was carried out in March 2026.

(b)

There was a record available to demonstrate the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service. This maintenance was last carried out in December 2026. The smoke alarm was last serviced in April 2026.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Non-Compliance Information

(d)

1.

The outdoor classroom remained untidy and not in use since the last inspection.

2.

The broken tractor and a plastic bench with plastic shards which were observed on last inspection had not been removed or replaced. Following the previous inspection, the registered provider responded through their CAPA stating that all worn and damaged toys were removed from the outdoor area. These actions were not effectively implemented to ensure that the equipment in the outdoor area was repaired as required.

3.

The storage units to the side of the outdoor area had many broken toys. The doors of the units were open to the elements and were soiled.

(e)

There was an inadequate number of toilets and wash hand basins to cater for the number of children present in the Ecce room on the afternoon of the inspection. There were two toilets and two wash hand basins available to cater for the children. Services are required to provide one toilet and one wash hand basin for every 11 toilet trained children attending the service. At 14:10 there were 15 preschool children aged from 3 to 6 years and 10 school age children in the Ecce room.

This regulation was found to be non-compliant on previous inspections in 2022 and 2023. The registered provider completed corrective and preventative responses following these inspections. The response did not prevent a reoccurrence of the same non-compliances on this inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1.

The outdoor classroom has been cleared and repurposed for the use of the children. There are tables, chairs and benches for children to sit on in the sheltered outdoor classroom. There are toys stored in waterproof boxes

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which can be left in the area for the children to play with. A number of large wooden play structures have been purchased by the registered provider and positioned in the garden for the enjoyment of the children.

2.

The broken tractor and the broken bench have been removed.

3.

All broken toys have been removed from the outdoor area. The area has been cleaned and weeds removed.

(e)

A plumber has been employed to install an additional toilet and wash hand basin in the Ecce room upstairs. This will provide the extra capacity required to accommodate all the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

1.

A photograph of the repurposed outdoor classroom was received by the inspector. Photographs of the large wooden play structures such as a climbing frame and a hoop game was also received.

2.3.

Photograph of the cleared outdoor play area was received.

(e)

No evidence

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.