

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022CC003
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Gra Childcare
-------------------------	---------------

Address of Service:	Roseview, Main Street, Carrignavar, Co Cork
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	T34 RK79
-----------------	----------

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

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	23/06/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	13
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	13 Market Square Mallow Cork P51DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	B Fraher
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

Gra Childcare is a private early years care and education facility that offers full day, part-time and sessional care. School age care is also provided. The service is located in a two storey purpose built childcare facility located in the village of Carrignavar in Cork. The service caters for children aged 1 to 6 years with the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) operating from 9:00 to 12:00. The opening times are between 8:30 and 17:30. The service has three care rooms namely Buttercups, Sunflowers and Bluebells. There is also one designated sleep room, children and adult sanitary facilities, a laundry room, a kitchen, a staff room and a reception area. The children do not access the upstairs of the premises. The children have access to an outdoor play area located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There is a total 14 staff attached to the service including the register provider, who is not service based. On the day of inspection, 10 staff members were present in the service, 9 of whom were working directly with the 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 children, person in charge and staff 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, 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,*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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 registered provider had appointed a person in charge and a deputy.

(b) The person in charge and the deputy were on duty at the service when the inspectors arrived and facilitated the inspection process.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge, it was determined that 13 new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Eleven of these new staff members worked directly with the children. A total of 13 files were reviewed. It was also determined that one staff members Garda vetting's were due for renewal and required review.

(a) Of the 26 required written and validated references, 19 had been provided by past employers.

(b) Of the 26 required written and validated references, 7 had been provided from a source other than previous employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 14 staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting records, with certified translations where required, were available on file for five staff members, who had lived outside the State for a period of six consecutive months or longer, as adults.

(4) Evidence of completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications was on file for 11 adults. One adult also held a letter of eligibility to practice. This included the quality supervisor and the operations manager who had also attained relevant qualifications.

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) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care of the children in attendance at all times.

(2) The service maintained the minimum ratio required as per regulation in the care rooms. The ratio was as follows:

- The Buttercups room, there were two staff caring for eight children in the morning and two staff caring for five children in the afternoon.
- The Sunflower room, there were 3 staff caring for 10 children in the morning and 2 staff caring for 8 children in the afternoon.
- The Bluebells room, there were 3 staff caring for 13 children in the morning and the room was used for afterschool in the afternoon.

(8) (a) The service operated with at least two adults present at all times. This was observed on the day of inspection and was evident through examination of the staff roster.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) The service had 51 children's records available for inspection and a sample of 10 of these were inspected. All the records inspected were found to contain the required information as listed from (a) through to (i).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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:

- (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

- (j) There were 10 records of medication administration reviewed. All 10 records were completed with staff signatures, requests for administration completed by parents/ guardians and all other required details were completed.
- (k) A sample of 10 accident/incident reports from 1 of the care rooms were reviewed and all were found to contain relevant details including the signatures of the parents and a staff member present on the day of the accident or incident.

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

On the day of inspection, the following information was obtained through direct observation and discussion with the staff and examination of relevant documents.

Basic needs:

- Snacks were provided by the parents and guardians, and they were observed to be healthy and nutritious.
- Staff interacted with the children during snack time and were observed helping and assisting the children where necessary.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- While outdoors, the children were noted to be dressed appropriately with sunhats.
- Nappy changing in the service was observed to be carried out. Each child's dignity and privacy were observed to be respected with one child being changed at a time.
- Supervision and assistance were provided for the children who accessed the sanitary facilities.
- Children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of a child size vinyl sofa.
- Appropriate seating was available in the form of low-level tables and chairs.
- Outdoor play was promoted and observed at the time of inspection with the staff observing and assisting children during play. The inspector observed children from the Bluebells room all taking part in a sports day where each child obtained a medal.

Supporting relationships:

- The staff were observed to lower down to floor level with the children and engage in play. Children were encouraged and praised in each of the care rooms during tasks in a warm and caring manner. For example, the adults sat with the children completing artwork in the Bluebell room, assisted with building using magnetic bricks in the Sunflower room and sat with the children in the reading area in the Buttercup room.
- Staff engaged with the children in both group and individual activities. They engaged in conversation with the children and listened attentively as they spoke. Children were observed to dance with the staff in Sunflower room.
- Various methods of communication were used to link with parents and guardians such as messaging through a digital application, email and communication at collection and drop off. Staff informed the inspector that individual meetings outside of this time can be arranged if required. Parents were observed to come to the door of the room to collect their children, and positive interactions were observed between parents/guardians and the staff in the service.
- Children's identity and belonging was fostered through the display of artwork, family photos and a birthday calendar in each room.
- The children were encouraged to tidy up after tasks, which promoted a sense of responsibility.

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 children's hot meal was supplied by their parents or guardians and refrigerated and reheated as necessary in the service. Examples of lunch provided by parents consisted of pasta, rice, mince beef, chicken, fish and vegetables with a variety of sauces used.
- Snacks were provided by the service but some parents and guardians opted to supply snacks also. On the day of inspection, examples of the children's snacks included crackers, yogurts and a selection of fruit.
- Water was available as a drink at mealtimes and was accessible throughout the day.
- The inspector was advised that none of the children present on the day of inspection had any specific dietary requirements or allergies.
- Alternative and additional food was available in the service if required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 entrance door was secured appropriately. This restricted unauthorised access to the building and prevented the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- The windows in the care room were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The toys and play equipment assessed were in good condition.

Infection control:

- Handwashing facilities were accessible to the children with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Children were observed to wash their hands before meals and after using the sanitary facilities.
- Children's coats and bags were stored off the ground on hooks.
- A refrigerator was available in each of the care rooms for the storage of perishable foods.
- Lidded, foot pedal bins were in use for the disposal of waste during the inspection.
- The four cots in the service had individual bed sheets and the person in charge informed the inspector that they were laundered in the service.

Administration of medication:

- The person in charge informed the inspector that no regular medicine was being administered to a child currently in the service and parental consent was gained for prescribed medication to be administered.

Safe sleep:

- Three areas in the service were used for sleeping, namely Buttercups, Sunflowers and the sleep room. The sleep room was used by children from the Buttercups room. Butter cups and Sunflower rooms were used for children over two years old, sleeping on stackable beds. Due to the warm weather a fan was in use in each of these rooms for sleeping. The air temperatures were recorded between 20.4°C and 22°C while children were sleeping in each area, maintaining the temperatures at the required level of between 18°C and 22°C for children above 12 months.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Staff were noted to maintain sleep records and checks were completed at 10-minute intervals. The inspector reviewed 10 sleep records, and these were recorded to be carried out correctly.

Fire safety:

- The fire exit doors were free from obstruction on inspection.
- Fire extinguishers were wall mounted.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

- In the Sunflower room, the inspector observed wiring trailing across the floor in front of a cabinet accessible to children, posing a safety risk.

Infection control:

- On the day of inspection, the children's toilet contained two shelving units with lidded boxes containing children's clothes. One of these units was located beside the toilet bowl and was observed to have some of the lids open and the other was located on the opposite wall to the toilet. This posed an infection control risk.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following response was received from the registered provider:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General safety:

- The light was removed from the room. Staff have been informed that no wires are to be trailing. Plastic cable clips have been purchased.

Infection control:

- The shelving units have been removed. Staff are aware clothing and personal belongings are not to be stored in the bathroom. This has been incorporated into the routine housekeeping inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

General safety:

- Photographic evidence of the light removed and clips purchased received.

Infection control:

- Photographic evidence of the shelving removed received.

Summary Comment

The action taken by the registered provider have addressed the noncompliance identified under Regulation 23.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

Compliance Information

(d) A cleaning schedule was in place at the service for the care rooms and sanitary facilities, which appeared clean.