



TÜS LA
An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach



**EARLY
YEARS**
INSPECTORATE

Quality and Regulatory Framework

Additional Regulatory
Requirements for a
Childminding Service, or a
Full Day Care Service also
providing an Overnight
Pre-School Service

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This framework should be cited as:

Tusla (2018) Quality and Regulatory Framework: Additional Regulatory Requirements for a Childminding Service, or a Full Day Care Service also providing an Overnight Pre-School Service, Dublin: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla.

This document sets out the additional core regulatory requirements that apply when an Overnight Early Years Service is provided in addition to a Childminding Service, or a Full Day Care Service.

An Overnight Pre-School Service is an Early Years Service where children are cared for between the hours of 7pm and 6am for no more than two hours, except where the exemptions provided in section 58L of the [Child and Family Agency Act 2013](#) apply:

- » The care of one or more children undertaken by a relative of the child or children or the spouse of such relative.
- » A person taking care of one or more children of the same family and no other such children (other than the person's own such children) in their own home.
- » A person taking care of no more than 3 children of different families (other than that person's own early years children) in that person's home.

Regulation 10: Policies, Procedures and Statements of Pre-School Service

Policy on Overnight Services

There is a Policy on Overnight Services setting out the procedures in place to ensure the safety and welfare of early years children attending the service overnight. This policy relates to the supervision of the children, sleeping arrangements, bedtime routine and preserving the children's privacy.

The policy includes the following core elements:

It is available and communicated to all parents and guardians.

It sets out how the service will be staffed overnight.

It sets out how children will be supervised overnight.

It describes adequate food and drink provision for overnight stays.

It describes the sleeping arrangements, including the arrangements for:

- » children of different genders;
- » siblings;
- » staff.

It sets out bedtime routines.

It describes how the privacy of the children is to be preserved.

It describes the sanitary and bathing or showering facilities required and available.

It sets out the child safeguarding procedures.

It details any additional requirements about administering medication.

It states the type of insurance needed for the overnight service.

It sets out how parents or guardians will be contacted if required.

It sets out the additional safety provisions required, including,

- » security of the premises;
- » fire safety.

See: Developing Policies, Procedures and Statements in Early Childhood Education and Care Services: A Practical Guide.

See: Samples and Templates for Policies, Procedures and Statements.

Both of which you can access at: www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-quality-and-regulatory-framework/.

Useful Weblinks:

Fire Safety in Pre-Schools 1999

www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/Community/FireandEmergencyServices/FileDownload%2C1027%2Cen.pdf.

Regulation 11: Staffing Levels

Required adult:child ratio depending on the child's age

(0 - 1 year) 1:3

(1 - 6 years) 1:5

Regulation 14: Review of a Pre-School Service

The review of the service includes the review of the Policy on Overnight Services.

Regulation 20: Facilities for Rest and Play

- » Each child staying overnight has a suitable bed or standard cot provided, which can be easily accessed by staff.
- » Each child within the service is allocated their own linen.
- » Bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) used by the service are washable.
- » Each child's bedding is kept separate from other children's bedding, either on the bed or individually labeled and stored.

Regulation 23: Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

Implementation of the Policy on Overnight Services

- » There is evidence of the above policy on overnight services being implemented.
- » Relevant staff know the requirements, and have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the policy on overnight services.
- » Relevant staff have received training on the policy on overnight services.

Regulation 27: Supervision

Staff ensure adequate supervision while children are sleeping, for example - during staff breaks.

Regulation 28: Insurance

There is adequate insurance for an Overnight Early Years Service.

Regulation 29: Premises

Sanitary Facilities Bath or Shower

- » There is one bath or shower for every 6 children.
- » Bathing facilities are age-appropriate where infants are cared for.
- » Young children are never left unattended in the bath.
- » The use of bath seats or rings, or similar devices is prohibited.

