

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC091
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Name of Service:	Oakview Village Cork City
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Address of Service:	Cork City Hall, City Hall, Eglinton St, Cork, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T12 T997
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Name of Registered Provider:	Timothy Crean
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	26/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	30	PM	30
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast
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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

Oakview Village Cork City is a privately owned full day care service, that also offers part time and sessional care. It is registered to accommodate children between the age of 0 to 6 years, which includes children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The childcare facility is open 51 weeks of the year, with daily operational hours from 8.00am to 6.00pm.

Located in Cork city, the service operates from two adjacent buildings. There are three care rooms in total; the Baby room and the Pre-school room are in the main, two-storey building and the Toddler room is located in a separate building. The main building also includes a sleep room adjoining the Baby room, sanitary facilities, a kitchen, an office and a storage room. The enclosed outdoor play area, which had been installed in front of the Toddler room building is longer available, however, the children still have the use of the outdoor play space accessible from the Baby room, which is in the process of being renovated.

Staffing

Fifteen adults are employed at the setting, nine of whom were present on the day of inspection. The registered provider and the operations manager are not based at the service.

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.

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 person in charge, deputies, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection and the operations manager, who attended the closing meeting remotely.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider had appointed a person in charge of managing the childcare facility and two deputies were also assigned to the service.
 - (b) The deputies were available when the inspector arrived. The person in charge arrived shortly afterwards and facilitated the remainder of the inspection process.
- (2) Recruitment records in respect of the 15 adults employed by the service were assessed for compliance and the following information was obtained:
- (a) There were 27 references on file from past employers, which had been suitably validated.
 - (b) Three of the written and validated references had been provided by sources other than past employers.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 15 staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

- (d) Ten records of police vetting were available in respect of eight staff members, who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than six consecutive months, as adults.
- (4) Documentary evidence demonstrated that 11 of the adults, who were involved in the day-to-day care of the children, had achieved a recognised award in Early Childhood Care and Education. One staff member had obtained a Letter of Eligibility to Practice. The service manager and the operations manager had also attained relevant qualifications. A qualification was not required in respect of the registered provider.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) Required police vetting was unavailable for one of the adults, who had resided in another jurisdiction for longer than six consecutive months, while over the age of 18.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The written reply outlined that the staff member was requested to apply for the required vetting and did so on the day of the inspection. The vetting is now awaited. As a preventive measure, before staff begin working at the service, their files will be reviewed by the compliance manager, to ensure that all relevant vetting is present and correct.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the required police vetting was forwarded.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is deemed to meet regulatory compliance with regulation 9.

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, a sufficient number of adults were noted to work with the children who attended the service.

(2) A full day care service was provided and the required adult to child ratios were ensured as follows:

Morning:

Room name and age range of children	Number of children present	Number of adults present
Baby (7 months – 1 year and 11 months)	8	3
Pre-school (3 - 5 years)	9	2
Toddler (2 - 3 years)	13	3

Afternoon:

Room name and age range of children	Number of children present	Number of adults present

Baby (7 months – 1 year and 11 months)	8	2
Pre-school (2 ½ - 5 years)	11	2
Toddler (2 - 3 years)	11	2

- (8)
- (a) At least two adults were present throughout the inspection period and the staff roster also demonstrated that a minimum of two adults were consistently present at the service, during the hours of operation.

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;

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (j) Information regarding the medication administered to children was inputted on the service’s digital application. A sample of 10 of such records was assessed and deemed satisfactory. Signed parental consent had been obtained in respect of the children for whom prescribed medication was held.

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

(1)(a)

Basic needs:

- Regular meal breaks were ensured for the children and mealtime routines were conducted at a relaxed, unhurried pace. During this time, the adults were observed to promote a chatty, playful atmosphere as they sat with the children and offered appropriate assistance. For example, children in the Baby room were provided with bibs and supported with feeding, as necessary. It was also noted that the children were offered second helpings.
- Drinking water was available to the children throughout the day, should they become thirsty at any stage; in each of the rooms, the children's reusable water bottles were accessible to them at their eye level.
- It was reported that nappy changing was carried out at frequent intervals and in response to children's individual needs. An observed nappy changing procedure in the Toddler room was handled in a positive and sensitive manner, as the staff member spoke kindly to the child during this time. Toilet trained children were noted to independently access the adjoining sanitary facilities.
- The children's need for rest and relaxation was met through the provision of rest areas, which consisted of soft furnishings, such as floor mats and vinyl cushions and an adjacent selection of books. The younger children were accommodated to sleep in a designated sleep room, according to their needs and the Toddler room operated a scheduled rest period in the afternoon, which most of the children were noted to avail of.
- The children were encouraged in relation to self-care routines and personal hygiene. For example, children were reminded or assisted to clean their faces after eating and to clean their noses, as required.
- An adult size chair was available in the Baby room, which supported staff to comfortably soothe and care for the younger children.

- The layout of the care rooms supported children to move with ease, as they initiated and participated in various pursuits. Outdoor play was also facilitated. A recently installed partition in the outdoor play environment created a defined area, which functioned as an extension of the Baby room and allowed children to move into and out of this space as desired, during free play activities.

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 doors were maintained secure when not in use, which mitigated the risk of unauthorised access and reduced the likelihood of a child exiting while unsupervised.
- The outdoor play space was adequately secured by surrounding walls.
- In the Pre-school room, the risk of children accessing the adjoining kitchen while unsupervised was minimised, through ensuring that the door to this area remained secure when not in use.
- Visibility markings were in place on glass panel doors, which reduced the risk of injury to a child.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- There were no cables or trailing flexes accessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- Most of the wash hand basins were supplied with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towel dispensers. Foot pedal operated bins were also in use.
- Handwashing by children was observed before the mid-morning snack, before the main hot meal was served and after nappy changing. Adults were noted to wash their hands before assisting children with feeding and after undertaking nappy changing.
- The children's coats, bags and personal belongings were appropriately stored on wall hooks and in cubby shelving.
- Labelled storage was provided in the nappy changing areas, which ensured that children's supplies of nappies, wipes and barrier creams were easily identifiable. This reduced the risk of cross infection.

- The use of face cloths was appropriately managed. After each single use, the cloths were placed in a separate container for laundering, and clean cloths were clearly labelled.
- Disposable aprons and gloves were worn by staff during nappy changing procedures.
- Floor brushes were stored on wall mounts, with plastic coverings over the brush heads.
- All of the available cots were fitted with waterproof mattresses, which helped to reduce the risk of cross infection.
- Open windows/doors in the care rooms provided the indoor spaces with a supply of natural ventilation.

Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication was not observed at the time of inspection.
- Safe practices were in place across the care rooms for the storage of prescribed medication, which was noted to be maintained out of the children's reach, in-date and clearly labelled. Temperature reducing medication was also inaccessible to children.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff members carried out and documented physical checks of sleeping children at frequent, 10-minute intervals. A review of the sleep records, which were maintained electronically, demonstrated that the children's breathing, colour and position were assessed.
- While occupied by sleeping children, designated sleep areas were maintained within the required air temperature range. A temperature of 19.7°C was noted in the Baby room sleep room and the air temperature of the Toddler room was recorded at 21.7°C, while children aged over 2 years were observed to avail of a scheduled rest period. Both areas were fitted with air conditioning units, which facilitated the maintenance of consistent air temperatures.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were maintained free from obstruction.

Outing:

- Not applicable, as an outing from the service did not take place.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

Warm running water was unavailable at one of the wash hand basins in the sanitary facilities adjoining the Pre-school room. A water temperature reading of 18.8°C was recorded. Cold water temperatures may impede effective handwashing.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

In her written reply, the person in charge stated that the maintenance person was contacted on the day of inspection and requested to assess the water temperature. The plumber attended the service the following day and rectified the low water temperature. As a preventive measure, the water temperature is now taken daily to ensure it is at the correct temperature and this is recorded on the daily bathroom audit. If any issues arise, staff will inform management, who will have the situation rectified as soon as possible.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph to demonstrate the temperature of the water at the wash hand basin and a screen shot of the daily audit checklist.

Summary Comment

The corrective action implemented has addressed the non-compliance identified under regulation 23.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) First Aid Response (FAR) certificates were on file for five of the adults who worked at the setting.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was in place. The available certificate had an expiry date of 27 March 2025 and stated that the service was insured to provide full day care, for up to 41 children.