

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC152		
Name of Service:	Ferryview Childcare Centre		
Address of Service:	Ferryview, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P43X763		
Name of Registered Provider:	Margot Murphy Horgan		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	22/06/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM 5
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440		
Inspection undertaken by:	V. McCarthy		
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	Not Applicable		

Description of service

Ferryview Childcare Centre is a privately owned service that is registered to provide full day, part time care, sessional care and Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) to children aged from 2.5 years to 6 years. Ferryview Childcare Centre is situated in a residential area and operates from a purpose built detached one storey building. There are 2 care rooms in use, namely the ECCE (1) room and the ECCE (2) room. A third care room on the premises is not in use and is only used periodically by the ECCE (1) and ECCE (2) rooms. There is an outdoor area located to the front of the building.

Staffing

On the day of inspection, there were 5 adults on the premises including the registered provider and all 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 inspections 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 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, 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 service had a named person in charge who was the registered provider and a named deputy that could deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider and deputy both were on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The registered provider confirmed that 1 adult had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 08 July 2021, therefore recruitment records in relation to this adult were reviewed.

(a) There was a reference and required validation available on file from a past employer in respect of the adult.

(b) There was a reference and required validation available on file from a source other than a past employer.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of the adult.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of the adult that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the 5 adults that worked directly with the children.

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)

The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2)

On the morning of the inspection there were 27 children present on the premises with 5 adults directly supervising them.

- The ECCE (1) room – there were 14 children aged over 3 years of which 11 attended sessional service and 3 children attended part time care with 2 adults in attendance.
- The ECCE (2) room – there were 13 children aged over 3 years of which 12 children attended sessional service and 1 child attended part time care with two adults in attendance.

(8)(a)

The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises during the hours of operation. On the morning of the inspection, there were five adults on the premises at 9am when the service opened its doors and the roster demonstrated that there would be 3 adults on the premises at 5pm.

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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

(1) (i) The registered provider furnished the inspector with a copy of the staff roster for the week commencing 19 June 2023 and it was in line with the names and number of staff that were on duty during the inspection.

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 main entrance door was fitted with a lock to prevent unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- Visibility strips were fitted on the glass panelled entrance door.
- The radiators at child height in the care rooms were fitted with protective covers.
- The high shelving units in both the ECCE (1) and ECCE (2) rooms were anchored securely to walls.
- The storage room off the ECCE (1) room was kept secured to prevent access by an unsupervised child.
- All cleaning agents were stored in the secured storeroom out of children's reach.
- The outdoor play area was secured by fencing and gates.
- The lead of the radio in ECCE (1) room was kept out of children's reach.
- The 2 first aid boxes were stored on high shelves to prevent access by an unsupervised child.

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 service provided evidence that an adult that was always on the premises had up to date training in first aid response (FAR).
- (2)
(a) There were 2 fully equipped first aid boxes available on the premises and both were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
(b) The first aid boxes were always available on the premises.

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 were records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service available on file. A fire drill was last carried out by the service on 20 June 2023.
(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment and wired smoke alarm were serviced during May 2023.
- (4)
The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed at the main entrance to the premises.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(e) There were three toilet cubicles available for use by the early years children. One toilet cubicle was situated off the ECCE (2) room and 3 toilet cubicles were situated off the ECCE (1) room. There were hand basins available in each of the 2 toilet areas. There was also an additional toilet area provided with a toilet and wash hand basin situated off the Toddler room which was only used periodically by the 2 care rooms for small group activities. There was one toilet and one wash hand basin for adult's use positioned towards the end of the main corridor. A second toilet for adult's use was also available but not in use. A supply of liquid soap and disposable paper towels were available beside each wash hand basin for hygienic handwashing and hand drying. The hot water was thermostatically controlled, and the water temperature was recorded at 28.8°C.