

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC152
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Name of Service:	Ferryview Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	Ferryview, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P43X763
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Name of Registered Provider:	Margot Murphy Horgan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	26/06/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	1
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440
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Inspection undertaken by:	V. McCarthy
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

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 3 adults on the premises including the registered provider and all were working directly with the children. A relief adult was available to be called upon by the service as required.

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 an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 19, 23 and 28; however, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 16. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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, 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 and a named deputy that could deputise as required.
 - (b) The registered provider who was the person in charge was on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There were 3 references available on file from past employers in respect of the 4 adults attached to the service. Reference validations were available on file in respect of 2 of the 3 references.
 - (b) There were 5 references available from sources other than past employers. Reference validations were available on file in respect of 4 of the 5 references.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file for review in respect of each of the 4 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years in respect of 3 of the 4 adults.
 - (d) Not applicable as no adult 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 4 adults.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a)(b) Records of 2 reference validations were not available for assessment in respect of 1 of the adults.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider validated the two references, and stated these will now be kept on file in the service office. The registered provider stated they had a checklist developed that included reference validations, to ensure all steps are followed for recruitments going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

The two validated references were submitted.

Summary Comment

The requirement of Regulation 9 has been met.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The recruitment policy was available on file and was assessed during the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

The recruitment policy required further development as it did not include the following:

1. It did not reference effective systems when hiring staff such as probationary periods and requirements for students.
2. It did not set out how vetting requirements and procedures were managed. The policy did not refer to the requirement of proof of identity, curriculum vita, qualifications, validation of references or police vetting.
3. The policy did not refer to how records relating to staff were stored or for how long the records would be retained.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The recruitment policy was updated to include all information required. The registered provider stated that this policy will be reviewed on an annual basis going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

The updated policy was submitted

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 10 was met.

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 day of the inspection there were 3 adults working directly with 21 early years children.

(8)(a) There were always at least 2 adults on the premises during the hours of operation. The roster demonstrated that on the day of inspection, 3 adults were on the premises prior to 9 am when the service opened for the early years children and that there would be 2 adults on the premises at 5pm when the service closed.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A curriculum vitae that detailed each adult’s name, position, qualification and experience was available on file in respect of 3 of the 4 adults.
 - (h) Details of attendance for the early years children attending the ECCE (2) room were maintained daily.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A curriculum vitae was not available on file in respect of 1 of the 4 adults.
 - (h) Records of attendance for the early years children attending the ECCE (1) room were not maintained for the 25th and the morning of the 26th June 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (a) A CV was submitted, and the registered provider stated a CV will be held on file in the service office for all employees going forward.
- (h) The registered provider stated that the services records of attendance were updated, and that the records will be maintained daily going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (a) A CV was submitted.
- (h) A copy of the childrens attendance record was submitted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 16 has been met.

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) PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The ECCE (1) and ECCE (2) rooms were maintained in clean and good condition for children's use.
- Both rooms were furnished with child sized tables, chairs, low shelving and a wide variety of play equipment.
- There was a selection of arts and crafts about butterflies, shapes, and colours about the walls of the 2 care rooms.
- There was low shelving available in each care room with play materials and items clearly laid out. All play materials such as the push trucks, dolls, play kitchens, playhouses, home items, library books, arts and crafts and toys were all displayed interestingly and were easily visible and accessible to the children.
- There was a designated outdoor play area for the early years children located to the front of the building. The area was secured by fencing and a gate and was provided with a grass surface. There were different areas of interest available in the outdoor area for use by the children such as low slides, playhouses, picnic tables and soft mats.

Non-Compliance Information

The rest areas in both care rooms required further development to ensure that the children were provided with comfort and that their individual need for rest and relaxation were met and provided for. Currently the rest areas consisted of an area furnished with plastic child sized chairs which did not promote relaxation. There also was a floor mat in ECCE (2) room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that bean bags and cushions have been added to the rest areas, and that these will be maintained and checked regularly to ensure the children are comfortable.

Supporting documentation submitted

The statement of the registered provider is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 19 is met. This will be reviewed at the next 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

Infection Control:

- The furniture, shelving, floors, toys, play materials, play equipment and books were all maintained clean and daily cleaning templates were available for review by the inspector.
- The children's personal storage bags were stored on shelving on a trolley in their respective care room.
- Crockery was available for use by the children during their snack break.
- It was noted that the children's hands were washed after toilet use, outdoor play and before eating and that an adult supervised the children with this activity.
- The wash hand basins throughout the premises were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and trays of paper towels. The water temperature was recorded at 21.3°C during the inspection.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.
- A fridge was available for the storage of the children's perishable food.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Garda vetting was available for each of the adults. However, a disclosure in respect of 1 of the 4 adults was not dated within the 3 years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The Garda Vetting dated within the previous 3 years, was found and printed off, and added to the employees personnel file in the service office. A checklist has been developed for all new employees to ensure that all relevant info is printed and stored as required.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

The Garda Vetting dated within the previous 3 years was submitted.

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 23 has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The services' insurance certificate was available on the premises and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered which was 30, the start date, which was 28 March 2024, the end date, which was 27 March 2025, the category of service covered which was full day care and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.