

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC221		
Name of Service:	Dreamers Creche Ltd T/A Little Angel's		
Address of Service:	The Orchard, Castlerock, Midleton, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P25 K516		
Name of Registered Provider:	Judy Lynch		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	11/04/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	47	PM 41
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440		
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms. O'Reilly		
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
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Description of service

Dreamers Creche Ltd T/A Little Angel's is a registered privately owned early years' service in operation since 2001. This service provides education and care to children from 0 to 6 years offering a choice of sessional, part time or full day care service and for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The current opening hours are from 8am to 6pm each day Monday to Friday.

Dreamers Creche Ltd T/A Little Angel's operates from a single storey purpose-built childcare facility located in a suburban estate in the outskirts of Midleton town in Co Cork. There were four of the five playrooms in operation on day of inspection: an infant, a toddler, a montessori and preschool room 1. Pre-school room 2 was closed during the easter holiday break. There is a designated outdoor play area to the rear and side of the service.

Staffing

There were 9 adults present on the day of inspection and all staff were working directly with the children. The staff working directly with the children all hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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, deputy 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 named deputies that could deputise as required.
 - (b) One of the named deputies was present when the inspector arrived at the service and the registered provider/person in charge arrived at the service at 12:30pm and remained on duty until the end of the inspection.
- (2)
- The person in charge confirmed that 5 adults (3 childcare staff and two students on work placement) had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on the 21/04/22 therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.

(a) There were six references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the five adults.

(b) There were four references and required validations from sources other than past employers in respect of the adults.

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

(d) Four of the five required police clearances were on file on the adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more while over the age of 18 years.

(4)
A copy of the childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework were available on file in respect of the three childcare staff that worked directly with the children. The remaining two adults were two, third level students on workplace experience as part of their childcare qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) One police clearance record was not available on file on one of the adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more while over the age of 18 years.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) In the written response, the following was stated by the registered provider:

A copy of the required police clearance was received and translated into English.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the police clearance and a copy of the police clearance translated into English was submitted and deemed satisfactory.

Summary Comment

Correspondence and records received were examined and deemed to meet the above requirements of Regulation 9. (2). (d). of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of the inspection, there was a deputy and 9 adults working across the 4 care rooms in operation with 47 children present in the morning and 41 children present in the afternoon .

During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children in each care room.

Baby room

There were a total of 7 children in attendance in the morning and in the afternoon with one child aged under 12 months and 6 children aged between 12 and 24 months with 2 adults in attendance.

Toddler room

There were 17 children in attendance in the morning and 15 children in the afternoon. There were 2 children between 1 and 2 years, 10 children aged between 2 and 3 years and 5 children were aged over 3 years with 3 adults in attendance. Along with the separate sleep room, the playroom is converted into a sleep room for an hour plus after lunch to accommodate children that want to sleep while attending the service.

Montessori Room

There were 15 children in attendance in the morning and 19 in the afternoon. All the children were aged 2 years and 8 months plus with 3 adults in attendance in the morning and in the afternoon.

Preschool Room 1

There were 8 children with one adult in attendance in the morning. This room was not in operation in the afternoon. The children attending part time and full day care and the staff moved to the Montessori room for the afternoon

There were no third level students present on work placement on day of inspection.

Preschool 2 Room

This room was not in operation as the inspection took place during the easter holiday break.

(8) (a)

On review of the staff roster there are always at least 2 adults on the premises at all times while the service is in operation.

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)(a) to (i)

A sample portion of 20 children’s registration forms. were reviewed and found to contain the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (a) to (i)

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

The adults were observed to be caring in their interaction with the children and observed to be interested in the children's activities and listened and spoke to them using soft tones of voice and positive language.

- The adults were observed interacting and assisting the children in play and encouraging them to interact with each other.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way and the adults were observed to support the children and handle any minor behavioural issues promptly. The adults supported children to be sociable and respectful towards each other and spoke and listened to them in a calm and sensitive manner.
- Children had sufficient space to move about freely indoors. Due to inclement weather the children were unable to have outdoor play on day of inspection
- Updates and information were furnished to parents and guardians at drop off and collection times and via the services electronic system.
- A mixture of adult led play and child directed play was facilitated through planning and having a variety of play and natural materials available to the children.

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

- All food and drink for the children was provided by the parents.
- All perishable foods provided by the parents were refrigerated.

Non-Compliance Information

- It was observed on day of inspection that there was no hot meal provided for some of the children attending on a full day care basis in the Montessori Room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In the written response, the following was stated by the registered provider:

A letter was sent by email and the class electronic device application to all parents advising that a hot nutritional meal is be provided for all children attending full day care service. The parents of the children that were not providing a hot meal for their child, the staff have spoken in person with the parents to discuss the importance of providing a hot nutritional meal for their child while attending the service. This will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the letter that was sent to parents advising that a hot nutritional is provided for all children attending a full day care service.

Summary Comment

Correspondence and records received were examined and deemed to meet the above requirements of Regulation 22 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 to the main entrance door was adequately secured that prevented unauthorised access by an unauthorised person or exit by a child.
- The play materials, resources and equipment were in a satisfactory condition.

Infection Control:

- Playrooms and communal areas were adequately ventilated by both natural and mechanical forms of ventilation.
- The children had access to sufficient toilets and wash hand basins
- The adults had their own designated toilets.
- A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels were available throughout the service.
- A supply of cleaning agents and equipment was available in each room of the service.

Safe Sleep:

- The Baby and Toddler Rooms each had a designated separate sleep rooms which were furnished with a number of standard cots with safety mattresses.
- There were a sufficient number of stacking beds available with designated suitable bed linen for each child over 2 years who wanted a sleep while attending the service.
- Each playroom had a rest area for the children to rest and relax or a place to opt out of activities while attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the lidded pedal bins at child height there was a metal spike protruding where the rubber pedal covering it had broken off in the Montessori and Toddler playrooms. The metal spike which has the potential risk of causing injury to a child.

Infection Control:

2. It was observed that no apron was worn for one nappy change and the children's hands were not washed after nappy changing in the Baby room increasing the potential risk of cross infection.
3. On the two wooden sides of the nappy changing area in the Toddler room two areas were worn down and not provided with a smooth durable easily cleanable surface therefore increasing the potential risk of cross infection.

Safe Sleep:

4. Four of the cots located in the Baby sleep room did not have proper snug fitting safety mattresses.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In the written response, the following was stated by the registered provider:

General Safety:

1. The lidded pedal operated bins in poor repair have been removed and replaced with new lidded pedal operated refuse bins in the Toddler and Montessori Rooms

Infection Control:

2. The staff have been reminded about the importance of wearing single use disposable aprons at each nappy change. The importance of individually washing and drying the child and the staff hands after each nappy change.
3. The wooden sides of the nappy changing unit in the Toddler Room have been sanded and painted. The sides are now provided with a smooth durable easily cleanable surface.

Safe Sleep:

4. Four new fitted mattresses have been purchased for the cots in the Baby Room

In the preventative action the registered provider has stated that the staff have been reminded, if anything is starting to look worn or in need of repair to please bring it to the registered providers attention as soon as possible, a decision on repair or replace, equipment, toys mattresses will be reviewed and repaired or replaced.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of the newly purchased lidded pedal bins and receipts was submitted and deemed satisfactory.
2. The statement from the registered provider is accepted as evidence.

3. Photographic evidence of the newly painted wooden sides of the nappy changing unit in the Toddler Room was submitted and deemed satisfactory.
4. Photographic evidence of the type of new mattresses purchased plus receipts were submitted and deemed satisfactory.

Summary Comment

- Correspondence and records received were examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23 under General Safety 1. Infection Control. 2. 3. and Safe Sleep 4. of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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) Two staff had First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates

(2)

(a) The first aid boxes were safely stored out of children's reach in each of the rooms

(b) The fully equipped first aid boxes were available at all times to adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

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 fire fighting 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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 29/03/23
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment was last serviced on the 14/10/2022 and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced on the 28/03/2023.
- (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 in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service has certification to confirm insurance cover for a total of 78 children at any one time.
Insurance cover expires on the 27/03/2024