

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC227
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Name of Service:	Little Hands Childcare
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Address of Service:	Farranferris Education & Training Campus, Redemption Road, Cork, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T23 YW62
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Name of Registered Provider:	Noreen Hegarty
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	16/08/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	53	PM	37
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurranabraher Cork T23X440
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms. O'Reilly and Ms. Friel
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Little Hands Childcare is a registered community based early years service in operation since 1996. This service provides education and care to children aged from 1 to 6 years offering a choice of sessional, part time and full day care service and for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The current opening hours are from 7:30 to 17:45 hours each day Monday to Friday.

The premise is located within an educational training campus situated in a residential area in the north side of Cork city. The service is located mainly on the ground floor with two playrooms on the 1st floor of the converted premise. Seven rooms have been adapted to provide an early years service. There are 3 Nursery Rooms, catering for children from 1 to 2 years plus. Pre-school 1B and Pre-school 2A cater for children from 2 years 6 months to 3 years plus and Montessori A and Montessori B caters for children aged 3 years and over. Lunch is prepared and cooked from a kitchen located within the training campus and served to the children by the adults in the service. There are 3 designated separate sleep rooms beside each of the three nurseries. The service has two outdoor play areas. To ensure all children have access to the outdoor play areas, each care room operate on a rotational basis with other care rooms in the service. There is car parking space to the front of the premises for the arrival and collection of the children. Montessori A was not in operation during the summer holidays therefore six of the seven playrooms were in operation at time of inspection.

Staffing

On day of inspection there were 15 adults in the morning and 7 adults in the evening working directly with the children. Most of the staff working directly with the children all hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. Also present was the assistant childcare manager and childcare supervisor, one kitchen staff and a receptionist. The registered provider is not serviced based.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,15,19,22,23,24,25,26 and 28, however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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.

Additional Information

On 16 August 2023, an Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider in respect of hot water readings of 55° Celsius in one of the children's wash hand basins located in Preschool 2A playroom. The hot water supply to children's wash-hand basins must be thermostatically controlled to 43°C or lower to ensure hygienic hand washing without risk of scalding. A subsequent response from the person in charge on day of inspection was received the next day to state the issue was addressed.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the assistant childcare manager, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 ensured that there was a designated person, who was the assistant childcare manager, and a named person who was the childcare co-ordinator, in the service.
- (b) The assistant childcare manager who was the person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters confirmed that either the designated person or the named person was available when the early years children were present.
- (c) Information was available in the reception area detailing the staff structure on the day of inspection. Staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Recruitment records in relation to the 29 adults working in the service were reviewed.
- (a) (b) There were 42 validated references available from past employers and sixteen validated references from sources other than past employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures for all 29 adults were available from the National Vetting Bureau.
- (d) International police vetting disclosures were available for three adults who had lived outside the state as adults for more than six consecutive months.
- (4) There was evidence that twenty-two of the adults working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications. Five adults did not require childcare qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) Two of the adult's qualifications required clarification.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In the written response the childcare manager has stated the following:

Adult 1 This adult was not being counted as part of the adult child ratio within the facility, the adult has now enrolled in a childcare course.

Adult 2 A request from the inspectorate was made for adult 2's full certificate to be furnished. As the respective childcare qualification was awarded before 2016, the award body will no longer furnish a full certificate. Instead an award verification document was issued.

All new employees are required to furnish full qualifications certifications prior to commencing employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Adult 1 A copy of the correspondence from the college stating that the named adult had enrolled in a childcare course in the college was submitted.

Adult 2 Information was forwarded regarding the process of QQI issuing replacement certificates for QQI awards achieved prior to 2016. A copy of the respective adults QQI award verification document was forwarded to the Inspectorate

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 9 (4) 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) There was a sufficient number of adults observed to be available to children throughout the period of inspection.

(2) The overall adult child ratios within the service met the requirements of the regulations.

Nursery 1

During the morning session there were 7 children in total. Five children were aged between 1 and 2 years of age. Two children were over 2 years with 2 to 3 adults directly supervising them.

In the evening there were 4 children aged between 1 and 2 years and 2 children over 2 years with 2 adults directly supervising them at all times.

Nursery 2

There were 4 children attending in the morning aged between 1 and 2 years and 4 aged between 2 and 3 years and there were 6 children in the evening with 2-3 adults directly supervising them at all times. This room closed at 3pm and the remaining children and staff were accommodated in Nursery 1

Nursery 3

There were 7 children in total, 4 children attending in the morning were aged between 2 and 3 years and 3 children were aged over 3 years. There were 5 children in attendance in the evening with 2 adults in attendance in the morning and 1 adult in the evening.

Preschool 1B

There were 5 children attending in the morning aged between 2 and 3 years with 2 adults in attendance.

This room closed at 1:30pm each day.

Preschool 2A

There were 12 children attending in the morning aged between 2 years 6 months and 4 years and there were 10 children in the evening with 3 adults in attendance in the morning and 2 in the afternoon.

Montessori B

There were 14 children in attendance in the morning and 10 children in the evening, aged over 3 years with 2 adults directly supervising them at all times.

Montessori A

Not in operation during the summer school holidays.

(8) (a)

On review of the staff roster there are always at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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) inclusive.

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 information recorded on the weekly staff roster was considered sufficient.

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.
- An adult in the Nursery 3 care room was heard offering a child a drink of water in their home language, ensuring the needs of the child were being met. When the staff member used the English word for drink the child looked at the staff member confused, when the staff member spoke in the child's home language the child smiled, came over, and took the drink.
- Care reports were completed by staff recording the daily activities of the child while in their care. The care reports for the younger child included sleep time, food and fluid intake, toileting and nappy changes and play activities in relation to the care provided to children. At collection time a duplicate copy of the daily activity record was given to the respective parents or guardians regarding their child.
- A mixture of adult led play and child directed play was facilitated through planning and having a variety of play materials available to the children.
- Transitions were made as smooth as possible when children moved from there room to the outdoor play area whereby, they had access to play equipment and play materials. Children in all rooms were observed playing outdoors in the morning and afternoon on day of inspection.

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

- The breakfast and lunch consumed on the premise is provided by the service.
- Children evening snacks were supplied by parents or carers.
- The food is prepared and cooked in the catering kitchen located on the campus and the food was served to the children by the adults in the service They were served adequate portions of ham, turnip, potato and gravy at the dinner meal.
- It was observed that children were provided with appropriate cutlery and crockery at snack and mealtimes.

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:

- The children had access to sufficient toilets, and nappy changing facilities.
- The adults had their own designated toilets.
- A supply of cleaning agents and equipment was available in each room of the service.

Safe Sleep:

- The children's rest needs were facilitated in two separate designated sleep rooms for the children less than two years. There were adequate numbers of standard cots with safety mattresses for children under two that required a sleep with individual accompanying bed linen. Each mattress was covered with a waterproof protective mattress cover.
- The older pre-school child's rest needs were met during a planned sleeping period when stacking beds were set up in a separate room beside Nursery 3 with individual accompanying bed linen.
- Pre-school children who were in the sleep room or sleeping on stackable beds had their colour, breathing and position checked by an adult every 10 minutes and it was observed that these checks were recorded. One to two staff were observed in Nursery 1 sleep room monitoring the sleeping children.
- It was observed when children were asleep, there was adequate space provided between the cots and stacking beds in the designated separate sleep rooms.
- There was a rest area in each of the playrooms for children to relax or for children to opt out of activities for a while during the day.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. On assessing the temperature of the water in the children's wash hand basin in_Preschool 2A, a temperature reading of 55°Celsius was recorded which posed a scald risk to a child. Management was informed and a barrier was put around the sink to ensure no child had access to this wash hand basin. An immediate action notice was issued in respect of this on 16/08/23.
2. The air temperature reading in all the playrooms and sleep rooms were reading above the normal range on the inspectorate arrival to the service. Measures were taken throughout the day and were successful in reducing the air temperature readings to 22°Celsius in the playrooms and 20°Celsius in the sleep rooms except Nursery 3 playroom and adjoining sleep room. The playroom had readings of 22.9°Celsius throughout the day. The accepted temperature of a playroom can range between 18 to 22° Celsius. The sleep room temperature in Nursery 3 was 20.9°Celsius. The sleep room temperature can range between 16-20°Celsius.
3. In Preschool 1B there was a child that had a soother attached to a blanket. The chain that attached the soother to the blanket had a number of individual plastic cube shape beads on the chain that were considered a potential safety risk.

4. While there was evidence that childproof locks had been in place on some cupboard doors at child height the childproof locks present were in poor repair or broken in the following areas:
 - There were no childproof locks on the cupboard doors located at child height in Nursery 1.
 - Some of the cupboard doors at child height in Nursery 3 were in poor repair.
 - The fridge door located at child height in Nurseries 1 and 2 had no childproof locks. There were 2/3 large containers of milk stored in each fridge that had the potential to cause injury if a child pulled it out on top of themselves.
5. Children had access to children's chairs stacked 5/6 chairs high stored in the lobby of Nursery 1 at time of inspection. The stacked chairs were removed therefore the issue was addressed at time of inspection.
6. On arrival to Nursery 1, it was observed that two of the highchairs had no safety harness attached. It was discussed with staff and the highchairs were removed. therefore, the issue was addressed at time of inspection.
7. At time of inspection children's play equipment was stored in the sleep room in Nursery 1. The play equipment was removed therefore the issue was addressed at time of inspection.

Infection Control:

8. The inspector observed that a child's hands, in Nursery 1 room, were not washed by the adult after nappy changing, posing a risk of infection.
9. There was no thermostatically controlled hot water in the adult and child wash basins in Preschool 1B playroom, children's toilet and nappy changing area and in the one wash hand basin in operation in the staff toilet.

This issue was identified in the last inspection report dated the 26/08/2021 In the written reply (CAPA) it was stated that a boiler part was replaced, the plumber restored the thermostatically controlled hot water. The reply stated that the wash hand basins would be monitored daily by staff to ensure there is a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water. The measures taken did not prevent the reoccurrence of this issue on this inspection.

10. In Preschool 2A, children had access to the children toiletries stored in an open storage unit located in the lobby area of the children's toilet facility.
11. Children had access to a toilet brush container and brush and a number of toilet rolls stored in an open container located on the children's toilet floor of Preschool 2A a that had a potential infection risk.

12. The younger children had access to a number of floor brushes with dust and dirt attached that were stored in many of the lobbies of the children's toilets and lobbies of the nappy changing areas that posed a potential infection control risk. Floor brushes were removed from the lobbies and stored out of children's reach. Issue was addressed at time of inspection.
13. In Nursery 1 a large number of children's soothers were observed stored together in one open box located on the countertop beside sink. The staff member informed me that the soothers were belong to children that were no longer attending Nursery 1. The soothers were removed/discarded therefore the issue was addressed at time of inspection.
14. There was a mop and mop bucket stored in the nappy changing area of Nursery 2. A staff member was informed, and the mop and bucket were removed therefore the issue was addressed at time of inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

In the written response the childcare manager has stated the following:

General Safety

1. A subsequent response from the person in charge was received the next day to state that a Plumber was called and the issue was now addressed. The hot water supply to the children's wash-hand basins is now thermostatically controlled to 43°C or lower in Preschool 2A.
2. While on the day of inspection it was an above average warm day, and every effort was made to reduce the air temperature by opening all available windows, doors and skylights. Management is currently investigating the most viable/ cost effective measure of reducing the room air temperature in the future.
3. The written reply indicated that while staff are aware of the safety indications of the individual plastic cube shape beads that were located on the chain that attaches a soother to a child's blanket. This personal item is only given under direct adult supervision and in agreement with the parent only when needed. Should this comfort not be available to the child it would cause huge emotional outbursts and destructive behaviour that would have an impact on the other children in the class.
4. Child proof locks in Nursery 1 and Nursery 3 have been replaced. New fridge locks have been installed in Nursery 1 and 2.
5. Issue was addressed at time of inspection.
6. Issue addressed at time of inspection.
7. Issue addressed at time of inspection.

Infection Control:

8. Management will do supervisory checks on nappy changing practises in the service going forward to ensure that all children's hands are washed after nappy changing.
9. The childcare manager stated there is thermostatically controlled hot water in the adult and child wash basins in Preschool 1B playroom, children's toilet and nappy changing area and in the one wash hand basin in operation in the staff toilet.
10. The children's toiletries have been removed from the open storage unit in the lobby of the children's toilet located beside Playroom 2A.
11. The issue was addressed at time of inspection.
12. Issue addressed at time of inspection.
13. Issue addressed at time of inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety

1. Correspondence was received from the person in charge and from the plumber stating that the issue had been addressed.
2. The childcare manager stated that the service management is currently investigating the most viable/ cost effective measure of reducing the room air temperature in the future. Remains outstanding.
3. The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence.
4. Photographic evidence of the of the child proof locks placed on the press doors at child height and on the fridge doors in the playrooms was submitted and deemed satisfactory.
5. Issue addressed at time of inspection.
6. Issue addressed at time of inspection.
7. Issue addressed at time of inspection.

Infection Control:

8. The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence.
9. Toilet brush and open toilet roll holder have both been removed.
10. The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence.
11. Issue addressed at time of inspection.

12. Issue addressed at time of inspection.

13. Issue addressed at time of inspection.

All staff have been reminded that accurate risk assessments should be carried out and recorded so that Management can follow up on any necessary actions that need to be undertaken.

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23 issues 1. and 3 to 12 inclusive of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. Issue 2 under General Safety will be reviewed on the next inspection on what measures have been taken to address this issue.

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) Four staff had in date First Aid The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence.

Responder certificate (FAR)

(2)

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

(b) The 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

(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 03/04/2023 and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced on the 01/04/2023.

(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.

Non-Compliance Information

In the written response the childcare manager has stated the following:

- (1)
- (a) A record of fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place in August 2023. On review of monthly fire drill records obtained at time of inspection. There were no fire drill records for March, April and May 2023. Before March the last fire drill recorded was 8th February 2023. There was a fire drill record for the months of June, July and August 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In the written response the childcare manager has stated the following:
The fire drill records for March, April and May of 2023 were in the master file record in the main company building located beside the service. A copy of the monthly fire drill will be kept on file within the childcare centre as well as in the master file in the main company building in future

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the monthly fire drills for March, April and May 2023 were forwarded to the Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 26(1)(a) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 110, the start date, which was the 18th September 2023, the end date, which was 17th September 2024 and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(d) Since the last inspection the surface of both outdoor play areas have new all-weather, colourful, artificial grass surfaces in place.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
- Preschool 1B
1. There was a musty odour on entering the playroom on day of inspection. The staff member stated that the musty odour was present for a while and that there was a history of a water leak from the first-floor area above this room.
 2. The following areas had ceilings tiles that were stained, broken, or cracked. There was a stain on one of the ceiling tiles of Preschool 1B and in the separate children's toilet and nappy changing room for Preschool 1B.
 3. The tap in the adult sink in the playroom was in a poor state of repair.
 4. There were food crumbs, an empty drinking glass and a plate on the floor in one of the corners of the Montessori B playroom located near the sink.
 5. There was visible evidence of chipped paint on the grate and around the grated area located at child height on one of the lower walls of the outdoor play area beside the three nursery rooms.
 6. In the staff toilet two areas of black mould were visible on the ceiling. One area of black mould was located near an open storage area for staff toiletries and cleaning materials. The other area where black mould was evident was located on the ceiling above the stock room that is located in the staff toilet.

Montessori B

7. On entering the room there was a large visible deep crack on the upper wall in the playroom that had been filled but still remained visible and in a poor state of repair.
8. There was visible cobwebs and dust that were black in colour in the upper walls and ceiling beams that would suggest that a deep cleaning of this room had not taken place for a while.

(e)

Preschool 2A

9. There were 12 children present at time of inspection. The ratio of wash hand basins is, one wash hand basin to every 11 children in attendance. In the children's toilet adjacent to the playroom, it was observed while there were two wash hand basins present, there was only one in operation when two wash hand basins in a proper state of repair were required.
10. Part of the area under the children's sink was not enclosed allowing children access to the pipes and cables under the wash hand basins that had the potential safety risk to the children in attendance.
11. Large flat single unit timber boards were stacked up against a wall behind the entrance door to the children's toilet facility which posed a potential safety risk to the children in attendance in this room.
12. There was evidence of dust in a number of the mechanical ventilation systems in the toilet and nappy changing facilities.

Staff toilet facility

- 13 There were two wash hand basins in the staff toilet but only one of the two wash hand basins was in a proper state of repair. The ratio is one wash hand basin for every 8 staff. There were 19 adults present on day of inspection so three wash hand basins in a proper state of repair are required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

In the written response the childcare manager has stated the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d)

Preschool 1B

1. An investigation took place above the ceiling and the source of the odour was identified.
2. The ceiling tiles have been replaced.
3. The tap in the adult wash hand basin located in the playroom has been replaced.
4. Staff lunch materials are not permitted in the childcare rooms. All staff have been informed.
5. The chipped paint has been removed, sanded and re painted.

- An engineer visit has taken place to see what the underlying issue is, with the mould located in the bathroom area.

Montessori B

- Engineer has assessed the crack previously filled in the upper wall.
- Specialist equipment has been booked to clean upper high walls and ceiling beams in Montessori Room.

(e)

Preschool 2A

- Wash hand basin has been restored to a proper state of repair and is in good working order.
- Area under the sink has been enclosed.
- Flat timber boards have been removed that were stacked up against a wall behind the entrance door into the children's toilets.
- All mechanical ventilation units have been deep cleaned.
- Wash hand basins have been restored to working order on the adult toilets.

Supporting documentation submitted

- The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence.
- The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence.
- The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence.
- The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence.
- Photographic evidence of the of the grate sanded and repainted was submitted and deemed satisfactory.
- The childcare manager is awaiting a report from the engineer and will forward a copy of the engineer's report on receipt of same.
- The childcare manager is awaiting a report from the engineer and will forward a copy of the engineer's report.
- No evidence submitted. The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence
- Correspondence received from the plumber stating that the wash hand basin is fixed.
- Photographic evidence of the area under the wash hand basins enclosed was submitted and deemed satisfactory.
- No evidence submitted. The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence
- Photographic evidence of a clean vent was submitted.
- Correspondence received from the plumber stating that the wash hand basins in the adult toilets are fixed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 29 (d) 1,2,3,4,5,6 and (e) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. Awaiting copies of the engineers report on non-compliance 7 and 8. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.