

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC236
Name of Service:	Little Rascals Creche
Address of Service:	Compass Quay, Kinsale, Co. Cork
Eircode:	P17 EP28
Name of Registered Provider:	Fiona O'Donovan
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
Date(s) of Inspection:	02/07/2024
Date 2 of Inspection:	03/07/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	39	PM	31
Day 2	AM	42	PM	Not assessed

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher, Cork
Inspection undertaken by:	C Stokes
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

Little Rascals Creche in Kinsale is a long-established childcare facility with 4 care rooms. It is registered to cater for children aged 0-6 years and it currently offers a service for children aged 1- 6 years. The wobbler/toddler room (orange room) caters for children aged 1- 2.5 years and the other three care rooms, yellow, blue, and red rooms care for children over 2 years of age. On the days of inspection, the red room was not in use, as it was vacant for the summer months. The service is registered to operate from 7.45am to 6pm Monday to Friday. There is a designated nappy changing area beside both the yellow and orange rooms. There is one designated sleep room in place, located off the orange room. There are two outdoor areas to the rear and side of the service for children to enjoy. The ethos of the service is playful learning and care. The service offers sessional, part-time, and full day care provision to preschool children.

Staffing

The registered provider is service based and adults working directly with children had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education or letters of temporary permission to practice 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 and safety. 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 registered provider, deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the days 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.

(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 (the registered provider) and a named deputy person in charge.
- (b) The registered provider was available at the service when the unannounced inspection commenced on both days of inspection.
- (c) The management structure was on display in the service, adjacent to the front office.
- (2) The relevant files in relation to all 14 adults working in the service were reviewed.
- (a) There were 12 written and validated references on file from past employers in respect of the 14 early year practitioners.
- (b) There were 16 written reference available from sources other than previous employers, with a satisfactory record of validation, in respect of the 14 early years practitioners.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau was in place for 14 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was in place for 5 early year practitioners who had lived outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) A recognised award in Early Childhood Care and Education or temporary permission to practice letter from the DECDIY had been attained by the 14 early year practitioners.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) During the inspection period, an adequate number of adults were observed to be available to the children in attendance.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the requirements of the regulation were adhered to. The adult/ child ratios were maintained as follows.

Day 1

Room (Age range)	Adults	Children
Blue Room (age 3-5years)	2	16
Orange room (aged 1-2years & aged 2-3years)	3	8 under 2 years, 1 over 2 years
Yellow room (aged 2-3 years and 3-4 years)	3	10 aged 2-3 years and 4 aged 3-4 years
Red room	vacant	vacant

Day 2

Room (Age range)	Adults	Children
Blue Room (age 3-5years)	2	16
Orange room (aged 1-2years & aged 2-3years)	3	10
Yellow room (aged 2-3 years and 3-4 years)	3	16
Red room	vacant	vacant

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:

- The timing of meal and snack breaks for children ensured that there were no inappropriate gaps in between dining. The registered provider advised that breakfast was served from 8 to 8.45am, the mid-morning snack was served at 10am, followed by lunch from 11.30 to midday and an afternoon snack at 2.45 to 3pm. The inspector was also informed that an evening snack was typically available from 4.30pm. Second helpings were observed to be offered to the children. All snacks and meals were provided by the service except for the morning snack which was provided by the parents/guardians.
- During snack and mealtimes, staff members chatted to the children, as they offered appropriate assistance. This helped to create a social and an unhurried environment, as the children enjoyed their food.
- Adults were observed to encourage the children's independence after mealtimes, where children were encouraged to remove their own bibs and place their bowls in the sink in an age appropriate manner in the Orange room.
- Drinking water was available to the children throughout the day, should they become thirsty at any stage, both indoors and outdoors.
- Staff advised that nappy changing was undertaken regularly and as required, adults were noted to interact with children in a kind and reassuring manner.
- The adults supported the older children to use the toilet facilities independently and offered prompts and reminders, in relation to handwashing practice.
- Cosy areas, which promoted rest and relaxation, were provided in each of the care rooms, in addition there was a designated sleep room with 5 cots. There was also a supply of stackable beds in place to meet the sleep needs of those children over 2 years of age.

- The children's need for mobility was met with children having access to the outdoor play areas typically three times per day.

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 risk of unauthorised access to the childcare facility was appropriately managed. The main door that provided access service was secured.
- The outdoor play spaces which were directly accessible from the care rooms were secured and fully enclosed.
- Warm running water was thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43°C. Recorded temperature readings ranged from 29°C to 40°C.
- Cleaning agents and equipment were inaccessible to the children.
- No cables/ cords were observed to be accessible to the children on the days of inspection.

Infection Control:

- Throughout the service, wash hand basins were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, and paper towel dispensers/electric hand dryers, for hygienic hand washing and drying. During the day, the children were noted to wash their hands before mealtimes and after outdoor play/ after using the toilet facilities.
- Single use aprons and gloves were available to staff for nappy changing.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were in place in the children's toilets for appropriate waste disposal of nappies/ paper towels.
- Children's barrier creams for nappy changing were individually labelled and stored appropriately.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not observed to be administered to any of the children during the inspection period.

- The registered provider and adults in the care rooms spoke competently on children with individualised care plans in the case of anaphylaxis and the administration of the auto-injector pens in this instance.
- The adults stated that all staff were trained in the use of the auto-injector pen.
- A record of the application of sunscreen was available for inspection and adults spoke competently in relation to the service's sunscreen practice/procedures for children.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleeping children were physically monitored by staff at 10-minute intervals which was recorded in writing and available for inspection.
- An air temperature of 19.8°C was recorded in the sleep room off the orange room.
- Appropriate fitted mattresses and fitted sheets were used in the standard cots in the sleep room.

Fire Safety:

- No fire safety concerns were noted on either day of inspection. Fire exits were unobstructed.

Outing:

- No outings were observed on the days of inspection.

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) First Aid Response (FAR) certification was on file for 12 of the 14 adults who worked at the setting and review of the staff roster indicated that at least one of these adults was working at the service during the hours of operation.

(2a/b) The registered provider ensured that a fully equipped first aid box was available at all times and was readily accessible as required.

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) The registered provider ensured that a record of the fire drills was maintained. The most recent fire drill was dated 20 June 2024.
- (b) The registered provider ensured a maintenance of the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms were maintained. These records were both dated November 2023.
- (4) A notice of the fire evacuation procedure was on display on the wall in the service at the various fire points.