

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC246		
Name of Service:	Little Wonders Daycare		
Address of Service:	10 Manor Dene, Thornbury Heights, Rochestown, Cork, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	T12 FN22		
Name of Registered Provider:	Marie O'Leary		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	30/08/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM Not Applicable
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440		
Inspection undertaken by:	V. McCarthy		
Title:	Early Years Inspector		

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable Not Applicable

Description of service

Little Wonders Daycare is located in a residential area in Rochestown, Cork. The service is carried out in a 1 storey detached building that was adapted as a childcare facility. There is 1 large open plan care room with interest areas set up in different sections of the room. There is a designated outdoor play area provided to the rear of the premises. The service is registered to operate as a full day care service to children aged up to 6 years between the hours of 8.30am and 1pm.

Staffing

There are 3 adults attached to the service including the registered provider and all work directly with the children.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring.

The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 deputy that could deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge who was the registered provider was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There were 2 references available on file from past employers in respect of 1 of the 3 adults.
- (b) There were 2 references and required validations from sources other than past employers available on file in respect of a second adult.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 3 adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available on file in respect of 1 of the adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of 2 of the 3 adults.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a)(b) There were no references and required validations available on file in respect of the third adult.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification was not available on file for review by the inspector in respect of the third adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(a)(b) The references and reference validations in respect of the third adult were obtained and are now available on file.
- (4) A copy of the third adult's qualification has been obtained and is now available on file.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b)(4) Photocopies of the outstanding references, reference validations and qualification were submitted to the inspector for review on 12th and 21st September 2023.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliances was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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 always an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2)
On the day of inspection there were 13 early years children present on the premises with 3 adults working directly with them.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises. On the morning of the inspection, there were 2 adults on the premises at 8.30am and the third adult arrived in the premises at 9am.

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;

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises,

Compliance Information

(1)(3)

Copies of curriculum vitae detailing name, position and experience were available on file in respect of 2 of the 3 adults.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(3)

A copy of a curriculum vitae in respect of the third adult was not available on file for review by the inspector.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(3) A curriculum vitae was obtained in respect of the third adult is now available on file.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(3) A copy of the outstanding curriculum vitae was submitted to the inspector for review.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the registered provider was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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:

- All the food eaten by the children for their daily snacks was supplied by the children's respective parents or guardians and was noted to be healthy and nutritious. The children's food for their mid-morning snack consisted of sliced fruit, cheese, yogurt or wraps.
- Any child that was thirsty throughout the day or required additional fluids could easily access a drink when they chose as their individual water bottles were stored at child height in each of their storage cubby holes.
- The children's need for rest, relaxation and comfort was met as a rest area consisting of soft matting and bean bags was available. The children were able to access the rest area as they chose for play, rest, or quiet time.
- The children's need to use the toilet was promptly and sensitively attended to. The independent use of the toilet by the early years children was encouraged and supported as appropriate by the adults.
- Hand hygiene by the children was supported and encouraged by the adults who supervised the children when they washed their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The main entrance door leading into the premises was secured and prevented unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- Visibility strips were fitted to all low glass panelled windows and doors throughout the premises.
- The low presses in the care room were fitted with locks to prevent children accessing hazardous items.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelves or secured presses out of children's reach.
- The adults stored their personal belongings on top of a high unit out of children's reach.
- The outdoor play area was secured by fencing and secured gates.

Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before eating and after using the toilet and messy play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, and paper dispensers. The water temperature was recorded at 22.2°C during the inspection.
- The children's bags and belongings were stored off the floor in individual storage units.
- There were detailed cleaning records available for the inspector to review. The premise, furniture and play materials were all noted to be clean and in good condition during the inspection.
- Adults were aware of the correct measures for coughing and sneezing and therefore could help children follow this process if required. There were boxes of tissues available on the premises.
- A fridge was available in the care room to store the children's food for their break.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The pedal operated bin in 1 of the children's toilet cubicle was not in good condition as it was not provided with a lid and posed a risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. A pedal bin has been purchased and is now available in the children's toilet cubicle.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. The registered provider submitted a photograph of the pedal bin to the inspector on 12 September 2023.

Summary Comment

The documentation and photograph submitted by the registered provider was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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)
It was acknowledged that the service provided evidence that 2 adults had up to date training in paediatric first aid.

- (2)
- (a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available on the premises that was kept stored on a high shelf out of children's reach.
 - (b) The fully equipped first aid box was always available on the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
No adult attached to the service had training in first aid response (FAR) as required to meet the regulations.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) The registered provider has been in contact with a support body and her name has been added to the next available FAR training day. She will ensure in future that an adult with FAR training is on the premises.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Copies of the emails between the registered provider and the support body were submitted to the inspector to demonstrate that the service has booked FAR training.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the registered provider was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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) There were records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service available on file. A fire drill was last carried out by the service during June 2023 prior to the service being closed for summer leave.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment and wired smoke alarm were last serviced on 09 November 2022.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed at the premises.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(d) The registered provider informed the inspector that the premises had routine repairs and painting works carried out over the summer months and that the outdoor play area was further developed since the last inspection. The inspector noted that the premises both indoors and outdoors was maintained in clean and good condition and was in readiness to meet the needs of the early years children.

(e) There were 2 toilet cubicles, each furnished with a toilet and wash hand basin, for children's use. There was 1 toilet and wash hand basin for adult's use. There was a supply of liquid soap and a dispenser with disposable paper towels beside each wash hand basin for hygienic handwashing and hand drying. The hot water was thermostatically controlled and during the inspection the water temperature was recorded between 22.2°C. The adult's toilet area and one of the early years children's toilet cubicles were each provided with mechanical ventilation. The second toilet cubicle used by the children was provided with a high opening window that could be opened as required to ventilate the space.