

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC253		
Name of Service:	Mahon CDP Community Creche		
Address of Service:	Unit 4 5 6, Avenue De Rennes, Mahon, Cork, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	T12 W289		
Name of Registered Provider:	Christine Fahy		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	01/08/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM 15
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
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Description of service

Mahon CDP Community Creche is a community operated service that is registered to cater for children aged between birth and 6 years. The service provides full day-care, part-time care, sessional care and the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. Daily opening hours are between 8.45am and 3pm. The service consists of two main care rooms, namely the Baby/Wobbler Room and the Toddler Room. There is a designated outdoor area located to the back of the premises.

Staffing

There are 9 adults attached to the service. The registered provider is not service based. There were 7 adults present on the premises during the inspection including 2 adults that were on community employment placement.

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 person in charge, 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 was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) There were 9 adults attached to the service.
- (a) There were 14 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of 7 of the 9 adults. There was 1 reference on file from a past employer in respect of 1 of the 9 adults.
- (b) There were 2 references and required validations from sources other than past employers in respect of 1 of the 9 adults
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 9 adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available on file in respect of 2 of 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 7 of the adults. The remainder 2 adults were on community employment placements.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a)(b) A second reference and required validation was not available on file in respect of 1 adult. A reference validation was not available in respect of the second reference for this adult. (a)(b) A second reference and required validation was not available on file in respect of 1 adult. A reference validation was not available in respect of the second reference for this adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(a)(b) The outstanding reference and required validations have been obtained and are now available on file.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b) The person in charge will ensure in future that all required vetting in respect of each adult is available on file for review by the inspectorate. Photocopies of the outstanding reference and validations were submitted to the inspectorate for review on 15 August 2023.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the person in charge relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

Part III – Management and Staff

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

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

Compliance Information

The following policy was assessed by the inspector and was found to be detailed and in compliance with the regulatory requirements:

- The Healthy Eating Policy

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 always working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 5 adults each with a childcare qualification working directly with 15 early years children. There were 4 children attending the Baby/wobbler room and 11 children attending the Toddler room.

(8)(a) There were always at least two adults on the premises during the hours of operation. The roster demonstrated that there were 4 qualified adults on the premises at 8.30am and that there would be 4 adults on the premises at 3.30pm.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A separate written record was maintained in each of the 2 care rooms regarding the children’s and adult’s daily attendance.
- (i) A monthly staff roster which referenced that staff took 2 breaks daily was available for review by the inspector.
- (j) The service had a designated book for recording the administering of any medication. It was completed in full and signed by two adults when any medication was administered to a child. The person in charge informed the inspector that parental consent was always obtained before administering any medication. During the inspection, the inspector assessed the 2 records that had been completed since 01 January 2023 and found both records had all details recorded in full.
- (k) There was a designated book available for the recording of any accidents, injuries and incidents at the premises which was available for review. During the inspection, the inspector assessed that there were 10 records regarding incidents and injuries available on file for 2023 so far. The records were complete and detailed the dates when the recorded incidents occurred and were dated when the adults maintained the records. The records showed an account of the events and the management of the incidents/injuries. Each record was signed by the adult maintaining the record and the person in charge and each record was co-signed by the respective child’s parent/guardian.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(i) The staff roster record on file was a generalised monthly staff roster. It did not detail which staff were on duty daily or rostered to be on leave. Also, it did not detail daily the specific times that each adult worked or took their breaks.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(i) The person in charge has further developed the staff roster to include which staff are on duty daily and refers to what staff covers staff breaks.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(i) A detailed staff roster record for the week of 31 July 2023 which refers to which staff were on duty daily and the specific times that each of them took their break was submitted to the inspectorate for review on 15 August 2023.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the person in charge relating to the non-compliance 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)

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- Each of the 2 care rooms were maintained in good condition and were attractively set up with play materials that promoted a cosy and pleasing environment for the children.
- The care rooms were furnished with child sized tables, chairs, low shelving, designated rest areas and a variety of play equipment that met the needs of the children. The Baby/Wobbler room was also provided with large floor mats that facilitated toddlers to roll and crawl safely.
- All play materials, play equipment and arts and crafts materials in both care rooms were clearly laid out on low shelving or in containers and were easily visible and accessible to the children.
- A sleep room was available off the Baby/Wobbler room and was furnished with 5 cots and a supply of stackable beds for any child that may require a sleep.
- The outdoor play environment which was situated to the rear of the premises was set up to support the children's free play, imagination, and movement. It was fitted with shock absorbing ground surface and had partial roof cover with the aid of an overhead canopy. It was furnished with a sand play area, seating, low see saw, multiple play kitchens, blackboard, balls and a selection of ride on play equipment.
- Adequate toilet facilities were available on the premises to meet the needs of the children. There was a nappy changing room furnished with 2 nappy changing units, 2 toilet cubicles for children's use and 1 toilet room for adults' use which were all situated to the rear of the premises.

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 food for the hot dinner meal was prepared and cooked by a reputable company and delivered to the service daily.
- One of the adults prepared and was able to reheat the food for the children’s dinner meals on plates/bowls by using a microwave that was provided in the kitchen. The heated food was then served to the children in their respective care room.
- During the inspection it was noted that all the food ate by the children was appetising and healthy and that the service adhered to its Healthy Eating policy.
- The inspector observed that a copy of the menu was displayed in the main foyer for parents and guardians to consult. The menu was in line with the healthy Eating policy.
- On the day of inspection, the children’s mid-morning snack consisted of platters of a selection of sliced fruit, cheese and ham. Hot toast and water to drink was also provided to the children. The children’s food for their hot meal was beef stew with vegetables and mashed potatoes. Sliced fruit and crackers were provided to the children for the mid-afternoon break.
- It was noted that the children attending the Baby/Wobbler room were provided with dinner meals of appropriate texture and depending on the age and development of each child the food was either liquidised, mashed or lumpy.
- The children’s individual water bottles were stored in a tray on a low table and were always available to the children as they wanted them.

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:

- There were no cords attached to the 2 window blinds on the windows in the sleep room.
- The cleaning agents in each care room were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- All leads and flexes attached to stereos were kept out of children's reach.
- The entrance door leading into the building was secured to prevent unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The doors between the main foyer and the 2 care rooms were each fitted with a coded lock to prevent unauthorised access by an adult.
- The outdoor play area was secured by high walls and a secured gate.
- The wash hand basins throughout the premises were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water. The water temperature was recorded between 21.5°C and 26.7°C during the inspection.
- The wash hand basin that was available in the outdoor play area was also provided with thermostatically controlled warm water.

Infection Control:

- The children and adult's toilet areas were provided with liquid soap and paper dispensers. The 2 nappy changing units were maintained in clean and good condition. There was overhead storage above the nappy changing units that was stocked with disposable gloves and aprons. The children's supply of nappies and barrier creams were stored in individually labelled cubby shelves.
- Children's bags and belongings were stored off the floor on wall hooks.
- The stackable beds used by children that needed a sleep were individually labelled. All linen was laundered weekly or more often if required.
- A box of paper tissues was available in each care room for any child who required a tissue to facilitate their nasal hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises to facilitate safe hygienic disposal of used paper towels.

- Detailed daily and weekly cleaning templates were available for review.
- The adults practiced a 'clean as you go policy' and cleaned up once they had finished with an activity.
- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before snack and mealtimes and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- Crockery was used by the children during their snack and dinner meal breaks.
- The service provided all healthy food for the children's snacks and meals and the food was stored in a fridge positioned in the kitchen.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Visibility strips were not provided on a low glass panelled door between the sleep room and the outdoor play area which posed as a potential injury hazard to the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A painted picture has been provided on the low glass panelled door between the sleep room and the outdoor play area.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. The person in charge will ensure that an adult checks monthly that any visibility strips on low glass panels throughout the premises are maintained in good condition. A photograph of the painted picture on the low panel of the glass door was submitted to the inspectorate on 15 August 2023.

Summary Comment

The documentation and photograph submitted by the person in charge relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.