

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC309		
Name of Service:	Nurture Childcare Douglas		
Address of Service:	Unit 4, Ardfallen Mall, Douglas Road, Cork, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	T12 AK12		
Name of Registered Provider:	Ciara Gallagher		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	8 March 2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	78	PM 66
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

Nurture Childcare Douglas is a privately operated service that caters for early years children aged up to six years of age. It also provides care to school going children. It provides full day-care, part-time care and sessional care including the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The daily opening hours are between 8am and 6pm.

Staffing

There are 21 adults attached to the service including the registered provider who is not service based but visits the premises regularly. There were 19 adults present on the premises during the inspection including the registered provider who visited during the inspection. There were 16 adults working directly with the early years children, the person in charge was office based and an adult who was the services' chef was assigned to the kitchen.

Methodology

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

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

The findings on inspection are based on:

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

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

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings.

Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re-occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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

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

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, 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 remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The person in charge confirmed that five adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 03 March 2022, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.

- (a) There were nine references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of each of the five adults.
- (b) There was one reference and required validation from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the five adults.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of three 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 each of the five adults.

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)

During the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children. There were 16 adults working across the six care rooms with 78 early years children in attendance. Additionally, the person in charge was office based, the services' chef was assigned to the kitchen and the registered provider visited the premises for the introductory meeting with the inspector.

- Baby room - there were nine children of which three were aged less than one year and six were aged between one- and two-years with three adults in attendance.
- Wobbler room - there were 11 children aged between one and two years with three adults in attendance.

- Toddler room - there were 15 children aged between two and three years with three adults in attendance.
- Classroom 1 - there were 16 children aged over three years with three adults in attendance.
- Classroom 2 - there were 18 children aged over three years with two adults in attendance.
- Classroom 3 – there were nine children aged over three years with two adults in attendance.

(8)

(a) The person in charge ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises, and this was demonstrated on the day of inspection by the staff roster.

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;

(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) The service used a digital application for the recording of all care provided to the children. This application was also used for the recording of the children’s arrival and departure times. Each of the six care rooms had its own digital device to enter the relevant details. During the inspection, the inspector assessed the attendance details of all the children attending the Baby and the Toddler rooms and found that all details were recorded correctly.

(j) The service had specific administering of medication forms that were completed 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 a sample of two forms that were completed since January 2023 and found both had all details recorded in full.

(k) Separate accident/Incident forms were available for the inspector to review regarding the recording of any accidents, injuries and incidents involving children. During the inspection, the inspector assessed that there were 25 records regarding incidents and injuries available on file for the year 2023 so far. The person in charge

informed the inspector that all incidents no matter how minor were recorded and were available on file. The records demonstrated that the adults dated each record, gave an account of the event, the management of the incident/injury, was signed by the adult maintaining the record and that each of the records was co-signed by the respective child's parent/guardian.

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)

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- There were key adults assigned to each care room that spoke reassuringly and positively to the children in their care.
- The children participated together in activities such as block play, colouring, reading and jigsaw play. It was noted that the children played well together, and that each child engaged in the activities and interacted positively with their peers and the adults caring for them.
- Each child's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way by the adults who assisted and supported the children as they carried out their activities such as creating crafts about Spring, flowers and lambs.
- It was noted that the adults instilled confidence in the children by offering them praise and positive reassurance for tasks carried out such as tidying up after an activity or correctly disposing of his/her used tissues.
- The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. It was noted that there was a named parent's representative who could liaise and interact with the children's parents and service management as required.
- General Information regarding the services' activities was provided daily to parents and guardians by means of a digital application used by the service and by notice boards displayed in the main foyer.

- Parents and guardians were spoken to informally daily at drop off and collection times and formal meetings were arranged as requested by parents/guardians regarding their respective child.
- Each room at the service carried out weekly meetings to assess, plan and evaluate care that would be provided to the children in their care.
- The service also carried out quarterly team meetings attended by all staff and the person in charge-maintained records of these general meetings on file.

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 service had a designated chef whose sole duty was cooking and preparing food for all the children’s meals and snacks. The chef worked in the services’ kitchen which was situated on the first floor of the premises.
- The chef prepared and cooked the children’s meals in the kitchen and then served the food 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 for the week commencing 06 March 2023 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 mid-morning snack consisted of a variety of sliced fruit, toast and milk or water to drink. The children’s food for their hot meal was vegetarian stir fry with noodles. Soup and bread rolls were provided to the children for the mid-afternoon break. Any child that remained on the premises after 5pm was offered a portion of fruit and water to drink.
- It was noted that the children attending the Baby and Wobbler rooms 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.

- Many of the children attending Classrooms 1,2 and 3 ate food that was supplied by their respective parents or guardians for their mid-morning snack break. It was noted that this food was in line with the Healthy Eating policy.
- Drinking water was always accessible to the children. There was either jugs of water and cups or the children's individual water bottles stored on low tables or shelving in each care room that were within the children's reach.

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

Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before snack and mealtimes and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper dispensers or electric driers. The water temperature was recorded between 15.1°C and 18°C during the inspection.
- The changing mats and units off the Baby room and Wobbler and Toddler rooms were sanitised after each nappy change.
- Adults washed their hands before and after each nappy change. The adults wore disposable gloves and apron for each nappy change.
- Children's bags and belongings were stored on wall hooks or in individual shelving units.
- Wipes, nappies and barrier creams were individually labelled and not for communal use. They were stored on individually labelled shelves.
- A box of paper tissues was available in each care room for any child who required a tissue to facilitate their nasal hygiene. Adults were aware of the correct measures for coughing and sneezing and therefore could assist the children.
- There were wall mounted hand sanitiser containers fitted at the main entrance and along the corridors to reduce the risk of cross infection on the premises.
- Each care room was provided with an air purifier to assist in ventilating the rooms.

- The person in charge informed the inspector that each care room was cleaned daily by the staff that worked in the respective care room and cleaning records available to the inspector for review.
- The premise, furniture, soft seating and play materials were all noted to be in clean and in good condition.
- Bed linen was not shared between the children aged over two years that used the mattresses. It was stored in individually labelled holders after use. The children attending the Baby and Wobbler room had designated labelled cots and when linen became soiled or unclean it was laundered on the premises.
- There was a supply of clean spare linen available on shelving in each of the two sleep rooms at the premises.

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)
The service provided evidence that six adults had training in first aid response (FAR) and that more than one of these adults were always on the premises.
- (2)
(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available in each of the six care rooms and a seventh first aid box in the services' kitchen. All were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
(b) The first aid boxes were always available on the premises.

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) Records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service were available on file. The last fire drill was carried out on 06 March 2023.
 - (b) Records regarding the number, service and type of fire equipment were maintained on file. The fire equipment and wired smoke alarm both had maintenance services during May 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 in the main foyer.

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 premises appeared clean and in good condition during the inspection. The entire premises had been freshly painted over the Christmas holidays and was kept and maintained in good repair. The adults in each care room were observed cleaning, brushing and dusting at various times throughout the inspection. There were daily and weekly cleaning schedules available for review that detailed the areas being cleaned, the frequency and person responsible for doing the cleaning. All cleaning carried out was recorded timely on the cleaning schedules during the inspection.

(e) There were three toilets and wash hand basins available on the premises for adult's use of which one was on the ground floor and two were situated on the first floor. There were nine individual toilet cubicles for children's use of which three were on the ground floor and six were on the first floor. There were three nappy changing areas provided for children requiring nappy changes which were all situated on the ground floor. Appropriate storage was provided close to the nappy changing areas for all the necessary nappy changing equipment. The nappy changing mats were smooth and easy to clean and were maintained in good condition. There was a supply of liquid soap and disposable paper towels or electric driers 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 15.1°C and 18°C.