

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC365		
Name of Service:	Shournagh Childcare		
Address of Service:	Elmgrove, Shournagh Road, Blarney, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	T23 W291		
Name of Registered Provider:	Claire Lyons		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	02/08/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	45	PM 41
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440		
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms. O'Reilly.		
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

Shournagh Childcare is a registered privately owned early years service in operation since 1998. Opening hours are from 7:30am to 6:15pm each day Monday to Friday and includes the children attending Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE)

The service operates from a converted domestic house that has been adapted to provide an early years' service. The four early years' service rooms were in operation: Yellow Room - catering for children from 6 to 18 months, Green Room – Toddler age group catering for children from 18 months to 2 years and over, Blue Room -Junior Playschool Room catering for children from 2 years 6 months to 3 years 6 months and the Red Room, a Senior Playschool room catering for children from 3-6 years. The premise also houses a separate sleep room beside the baby room, operational kitchen plus a dining room for children, a sensory room, administration office. Adequate staff toilet facilities and children's toilet and nappy changing facilities and a staff room. There is a partially covered outdoor play area to the rear side of the building and the baby room have their own outdoor play area located beside the playroom.

Staffing

There are 14 staff in total. There were 11 adults present in the morning and evening on day of inspection and of these 10 adults were working directly with the children plus the childcare manager who was also the chef on day of inspection. The registered provider called later to the service on day of the inspection and remained on site for the remainder of the inspection. The staff working directly with the children all hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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, 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 person in charge and a deputy that could deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge and the deputy were present when the inspectors arrived at the premises and remained on duty until the end of the inspection. The registered provider called later to the service on day of the inspection and remained on site for the remainder of the inspection.
- (2)
- The person in charge confirmed that six adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 20/08/21, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.
- (a) There were eight references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the adults.
- (b) There were four references and required validations from sources other than past employers in respect of the adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the six adults.
- (d) Three of the five required police vetting records were on file on the adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more while over the age of 18 years.
- (4)
- All of the six adults that worked directly with the children held a major award from Quality and Qualifications QQI Level 5 to a level 8 degree in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)
(d) There were no police vetting records on file for two adults who had worked outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

In the written response the registered provider has stated the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)
(d) One police vetting record was received and is in staff file. The other police vetting record has been applied for and is awaited in respect of one of the adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more. In the correspondence received a copy of a receipt of application for police vetting was forwarded to the Inspectorate. Management needs to do a more rigorous examination of the curriculum vitae of each new adult prior to commencement in the service. In particular the adults that have lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)
(d) A copy of one of the required police vetting record was forwarded to the early years inspector and deemed satisfactory. Documentation was submitted to the inspector demonstrating receipt of the second police vetting application

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 2 (d) 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) The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
- (2) (2) On the day of the inspection, there was the person in charge and ten adults working across the four care rooms in operation with forty five children present in the morning and forty one children present in the afternoon session. During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children in each care room.

Yellow Room/ Baby Room

On day of inspection there were eight children in attendance in the morning and seven in the afternoon. One of the children was settling in. One infant was aged under twelve months and seven children were aged between 1 and 2 years in the morning session and seven children aged between one and two years were present in the afternoon with three adults in attendance.

Green Room/Toddler Room

On day of inspection there were 10 children in attendance in the morning and nine in the afternoon. The children were aged over two years with three adults in attendance.

Blue Room/ Junior Playschool Room

There were sixteen children in attendance in the morning and fourteen children present in the afternoon. All the children were aged between 2 and 3 years with two adults in attendance in the morning and in the afternoon.

Red Room /Senior Playschool Room

There were 11 children in attendance in the morning and in the afternoon session. The children were aged 3 years plus with two adults in attendance.

(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 twenty children's registration forms. were reviewed and found to contain the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (a) to (i) inclusive.

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 following was noted through a combination of direct observation and discussion with staff and examination of relevant documentation.

- The service promoted healthy eating and food and snacks were provided at regular intervals during the day. Young children were observed to have the opportunity to feed themselves appropriate to the age and stage of development. The lunchtime meal was observed to be a sociable event and unhurried, each child seated and enjoying interaction.
- 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.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Self-toileting by the older children was encouraged. Children in nappies were attended to regularly. It was observed that hand washing by the children was supported and encouraged prior to eating, post toileting and outdoor play.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way and the adults were observed to support the children and handle any minor behavioural issues promptly. The adults supported children to be sociable and respectful towards each other and spoke and listened to them in a calm and sensitive manner.
- The children appeared happy and content and were familiar with the adults.

- Updates and information were furnished to parents and guardians at drop off and collection times. At pick up time the parents and guardians took a photograph of the details the staff had recorded on their child's daily activity record while attending the service that included food and drink intake, nappy change and toileting, sleep and rest and play activities.
- A mixture of adult led play and child directed play was facilitated through planning and having a variety of play equipment and materials available to the children. Lots of positive interactive communication was observed during the 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

- All food and snacks consumed on the premise is provided by the service. The food is prepared and cooked in the services catering kitchen and the food was served to the children by the adults in the service.
- The children were served slices of pear with a glass of milk at the mid-morning snack. They were served adequate portions of chicken, carrot and parsnip, potato and gravy at the dinner meal. The children from the green and blue rooms were observed eating the lunch meal provided by the service in the dining room on day of inspection.
- It was observed that children were provided with appropriate cutlery and crockery at snack and mealtimes.
- The older children had access to potable drinking water from the cold tap located in each room.

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:

- Playrooms, sleep rooms and communal areas were adequately ventilated as many of the rooms in the service had openable windows and all internal rooms had mechanical forms of ventilation.
- The children had access to sufficient toilets, wash hand basins and nappy changing facilities.
- The adults had their own designated toilets.
- A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water and liquid soap was available throughout the service. The service used single use cloth towels to dry hands. A supply of clean hand towels were available in each playroom. Used hand towels were washed and dried daily in the service.
- A supply of cleaning agents and equipment was available in each room of the service.
- A written cleaning record was available where high contact areas were cleaned daily.

Safe Sleep:

- The following sleep practises were observed on day of inspection. The rest needs of children aged under two years were facilitated in one designated separate sleep room beside the Baby room. There were an adequate number of standard cots with safety mattresses for children under two that required a sleep with individual accompanying bed linen.
- The older pre-school child's needs were met when stackable beds were set up in each of the remaining three playrooms for the children over two that required a sleep while attending the service. There was a sufficient number of stacking beds with individual accompanying bed linen for each child over two that required a sleep while attending the service.

- It was observed when children were asleep, staff monitored the sleeping children.
- It was observed when children were asleep there was adequate space provided between the cots and stacking beds.
- 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

Infection Control:

The following practices, which were observed during nappy changing procedures increased the risk of cross infection:

- Disposable aprons were not worn by staff when nappy changing.
- The disposable gloves that staff had available to them for nappy changing were considered inadequate as they were neither made of latex or silicone material. -
- The children's hands were not washed after having their nappies changed.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

In the written response the registered provider has stated the following:

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

All staff have received re training in nappy changing. Gloves have been upgraded. All children's hands are being washed after nappy changing. Supervision by management will be ongoing to ensure best practice while nappy changing.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

The statement from the registered provider is accepted as evidence. A copy of the updated nappy changing policy was forwarded to the early years inspector and deemed satisfactory

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23 Infection Control of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

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) All staff had attended a training in First Aid Responder this year.(FAR)

(2)

(a) The first aid box was safely stored out of children's reach in the service.

(b) The fully equipped first aid box was 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

- (1)
- (a) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place in the service in July 2023
 - (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 01/10/2022 and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced on the 01/08/2023.
- (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.

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 77, the start date, which was 28 May 2023, the end date, which was 27 May 2024 and the name and address of the premises.