

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC366
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Name of Service:	Shournagh Childcare (Ballyneety)
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Address of Service:	"Ballyneety", Shournagh Road, Blarney, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T23 TY75
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Name of Registered Provider:	Claire Lyons
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	08/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	46	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms. M. 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	N/A
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Description of service

Shournagh Childcare (Ballyneety) is a registered early years sessional service providing education and care to children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years and for children attending the early childhood care and education scheme (ECCE). The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:45 and 12pm. The service provides a breakfast club for school aged children from 7:30 each morning and a school aged care service is in operation each evening. The service is located in a rural area in Blarney, Co Cork. The service is in a converted premise with three playrooms in operation, over two floors, two children's sanitary and nappy changing areas and a separate staff toilet area. Lunch for the school aged care children is prepared and cooked in the kitchen. An additional playroom is in a new stand-alone building to the rear side of the existing building. The children have access to an enclosed, secure, spacious outdoor play area located beside the premise. The four playrooms in operation were named the green, red, blue and yellow playroom. The green and red playrooms are located on the ground floor and the blue room is located on the first floor. The yellow room is the new build located to the rear side of the existing building.

Staffing

The service had eight adults who work directly with the children at all times while the service is in operation. All staff that work directly with the children hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. A cook is also present in the service. The registered provider is not service based.

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 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 person in charge, staff and children who was 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) There was a named designated person in charge and a person to deputise as required.

(b) There was a person in charge when the inspector arrived on the premises on the day of the inspection and remained for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The Inspector concentrated on vetting the ten adults associated with the service including the new adult in management and the cook. A Fit for Purpose inspection was carried out on the 10/02/22. The inspection prior to the Fit for Purpose inspection was dated the 06/10/21.

(a) There were ten references with the required validation on file from past employers in respect of the ten adults.

(b) There were ten references with the required written validation on file from a source other than a previous employer.

(c) A completed Garda vetting disclosure was received for each of the ten adults.

(d) A completed police vetting record was available for the three adults that had worked outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

The eight adults that worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education or a qualification recognised by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) were available on file in respect of the staff. The adult in management and the cook were not working directly with the children therefore did not require a childcare qualification.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) +(3) On the day of the inspection there were eight adults working directly with forty six children across the four care rooms with the children attending a sessional service in each room. 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.

Red room: there were 7 children and 2 adults.

Green room: there were 8 children and 2 adults.

Blue room there were 10 children and 2 adults.

Yellow room there were 21 children and 2 adults.

(8) (a) Not applicable as the service was not operating single-handedly.

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 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 (g) and (i) inclusive.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(h) Of the sample of children registration forms reviewed, four of the children’s registration forms had no immunisation details on file.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In the written response the registered provider/person in charge has stated the following:

(h) All children's registration records have since been checked and the immunisations records are now in place. Going forward all children's registration records will to be checked to ensure all information including immunisation details are up to date prior to a child commencing in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

The statement from the registered provider/person in charge is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 15(1)(h) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 service promoted healthy eating and the food and drink provided by the parents and guardians for the mid-morning snack was observed to be healthy and nutritious.
- Child led play was supported by staff during the course of the inspection while spent time playing indoors and outdoors.
- Children's nappy changing, toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Independent use of the toilet was encouraged. The staff members were observed to supervise and assist where required each of the children when hand washing and hand drying, and the children were supported and encouraged prior to eating and post toileting.
- Children had sufficient space to move about freely indoors and outdoors.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- 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 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.
- A mixture of adult led play and child directed play was facilitated through planning and having a variety of play and natural materials available to the children. Lots of positive interactive communication was observed between staff and children during the inspection process.
- The service used a software technology application (an App) to provide information to parents in relation to for example settling into service routine, toileting and nappy changing, play activities, interests

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

- On day of inspection the food provided by the parents/guardians for the mid-morning snack were observed to be healthy and nutritious with age-appropriate size quantities of food for example freshly cut fruit such as strawberries and sandwiches, and yogurts with water to drink.

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.
- Emergency fire exit doors were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- The children had access to sufficient toilets, nappy changing facilities and wash hand basins.
- A supply of liquid soap, single use cloth towels and thermostatically controlled hot water were available at each wash hand basin in the service.
- Hand washing was observed prior to mid-morning snack and after going to the toilet.
- A written cleaning record was available where high contact areas were cleaned daily after each session.
- Perishable foods were refrigerated in the service refrigerators.

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) Four staff members present at time of inspection held a certified, First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificate.

(2) (a) There were sufficiently stocked first aid boxes available in the service, which were safely stored out of reach of children.

(b) At all times when the service was in operation, first aid supplies were accessible to the 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 on the 23rd October 2023
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment was serviced on the 30th September 2023 and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced on the 31st January 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 55, the start date, which was 28 May 2023, the end date, which was 27 May 2024 and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.