

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC393				
Name of Service:	Stickyfingers Childcare				
Address of Service:	Willowtree House, Ballinvredig, Ballinspittle, Co. Cork				
Eircode:	p17 hx53				
Name of Registered Provider:	Olwyn Shorten				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection: Day one	09/01/2024				
Day two	24/01/2024				
No of pre-school children on day 1:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>73</td> <td>PM</td> <td>48</td> </tr> </table>	AM	73	PM	48
AM	73	PM	48		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, St Marys Health Campus, Cork, T23X440				
Inspection undertaken by:	C Stokes, D Prendergast (Day 1) C Stokes, J Russell (Day 2)				
Title:	Early Years Inspectors & Inspection and Registration Manager				

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

13th June 2024

Regulation 8 and 23 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016

The Registered Provider will be required to comply with the following conditions:

- Your service is required to adhere to the approved registration status and ensure no more than 44 children are in attendance at any one time.
- Your service is to comply with the Fire Safety Officers instructions to attain regularisation of your fire safety certificate.
- Your service is required to provide the Agency with a copy of your fire safety certificate and related documentation showing compliance with fire safety.
- Your service shall make no material changes concerning the registration status of the service without prior application to, and approval from, the Agency.

These conditions are in place for 12 months.

Description of service

Stickyfingers Childcare is a private full day care service operating since 2004. It is registered to operate from 7am to 6pm daily. The service offers the ECCE programme and, full day care and is registered to cater for children aged 0-6 years. In addition, the service operates a registered school age care facility. The service operates with an emphasis on play based learning, with a focus on outdoor play provision.

Staffing

There were 11 adults present on 9 January 2024. The registered provider is service based and works 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 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

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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.

Additional Information

This inspection was carried out on foot of this service being in escalation, as the service was found to be operating outside its registration status on the previous two inspections of 12 September 2023 and 28 September 2022.

Operating outside of registration status is a breach of the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Inspectors were concerned that a total of 10 non-compliant issues found previously (7 from 12 September 2023 and 3 from 28 September 2022) were found non-compliant again at this inspection. The registered provider gave assurances via the corrective and preventive action (CAPA) process after these inspections. At the regulatory compliance meeting of 11 January 2023, the various steps that would be taken to address the non-compliant issues and prevent their reoccurrence were agreed. However, it was found that these steps had been ineffective in this regard. The findings are demonstrated throughout this report.

Following the inspection of 9 January 2024, a referral was made to the Fire officer in relation to the fire doors from both sleep rooms. A referral had been made to the Fire Officer previously after the inspection of 15 September 2021 about the locking mechanism on the toddler fire exit door. It is acknowledged that the registered provider changed the locking mechanisms on fire doors after this inspection. The registered provider submitted evidence of same on 20 September 2021. However, on the 9 January 2024, the early years inspectors were unable to open the fire doors in the two sleep rooms. An IAN was issued to the registered provider in relation to the fire doors on 18 January 2024. The registered provider responded on 18 January 2024 to state the doors were openable. The response was followed up by the inspectors who visited the service on 24 January 2024 to assess whether the fire doors were openable. Both were found to be readily opened, one after remedial works had been carried out as described in this report. On 24 January 2024, the service had no electricity, and the registered provider and staff were waiting for parents/guardians to collect their children.

A referral was made to the Environmental Health Officer regarding the service cooking and providing hot meals rather than reheating meals provided by parents/guardians as previously.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the days of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Compliance Information

The service was found to be operating within its registered hours of operation.

Non-Compliance Information

The service was found to be operating outside its registration status. Operating outside of registration status is a breach of the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. This service is registered for a maximum of 44 preschool children at a given time, on inspection, 73 children were in attendance. This issue was found on the previous inspections of 12 September 2023, and 28 September 2022. Following these inspections, the matter was escalated as the service was operating outside its registered status. The Registered Provider was directed to revert to operating with a maximum of 44 children at any one time and gave a written assurance on 14 of March 2023 that the service was catering for 44 children. A regulatory compliance meeting was held with the registration office on 7 November 2023 and this service was escalated to the National Regulatory Enforcement Panel (NREP) in line with the escalation policy of Tusla.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The corrective and preventative action submitted by the registered provider did not address the issue of non-compliance listed under this regulation. The registered providers response to the National Regulatory Enforcement Panel (NREP) did not give a commitment, timeframe, or plan as to how the service intends to reduce the numbers of children attending in line with the services registration status.

Supporting documentation submitted

None

Summary Comment

This matter remains outstanding following the inspections and remains with the National Regulatory Enforcement Panel (NREP) in line with the escalation policy of Tusla for services operating outside their registration status.

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 registered provider is the named person in charge.

(b) The registered provider informed the Inspectorate that two adults working in the service can deputise as required. The person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived at the premise and remained on duty until the end of the inspection. The registered provider confirmed that she or the deputy persons in charge are on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2) (a, b, c, d) The person in charge confirmed that there were eleven adults in total in the service on 9 January 2024. No new adults had commenced working in the service or a student placement since the previous inspection of 12 September 2023 when all the files had been reviewed and had reached compliance by the conclusion of the inspection process. It was checked that the Garda vetting disclosure in place for each adult had been obtained within the past 3 years.

(4) There was one student present on the day of inspection. The other 10 adults had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent, as per the review of the staff files on 12 September 2023.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the preschool children attending on 9 January 2024.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) The minimum ratio of staff/children were not in place in the pre-ECCE room and in the baby/toddler room in during staff lunch breaks, detailed as follows:

Room	Staff	Children	Ratio/ Compliance
Baby/ Toddler	3	14 children aged 1-2 years: morning.	1:5: Compliant (at 11am)
	2	12 children aged 1-2 afternoon	1:5 Non-compliant (at 1.20pm when 1 staff member was on break)
Pre -ECCE	2 plus 1 student	18 children aged 2-3 years morning. 13 children aged 2-3 afternoon	1:6 Non-Compliant for duration of inspection
ECCE Outdoor	4	41 children morning	1:11 Compliant
Preschool	3	23 children aged 2 ½ - 5 years attending full day care in the afternoon	1:8 Compliant
Total	10	73 children in the morning 48 children in the afternoon	

The registered provider has rostered an unqualified student in the ratios of staff to children in the service. The rostering of an unqualified student as a member of staff was noted in the previous inspection reports of 12 September 2023 and 28 September 2022. The registered provider agreed in the process of the regulatory compliance meeting of 11 January 2023 to recognise students as supernumerary and not to include them in the staff/child ratio. This was not found to be the case on the inspection in the pre-ECCE room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated in the reply of 7 February that the service does not include students in the staff/child ratio any longer. The registered provider stated that three new staff have been recruited for compliance with the adult/child ratios.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documents were submitted with the CAPA response. However, on 24 January 2024, the registered provider submitted email evidence that Garda vetting had been applied for in respect of the proposed three new staff. Staff rosters were submitted to NREP on 13 March 2024; however, it was not clear that there was adherence to the staff/child ratio during staff lunch breaks. The roster submitted showed that students were counted in the staff/child ratio during staff lunch breaks in the pre-ECCE room.

Summary Comment

This issue remains outstanding.

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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Non-Compliance Information

A staff roster was not available on 9 January 2024. This information was not available at the previous inspection of 12 September 2023. In the written response to that inspection the registered provider stated that the staff roster was maintained and managed in the service. The registered provider stated that there was an attendance book in place to support the rostering of staff and maintain accurate records. This was not found to be the case on 9 January 2024 and the assurances of the registered provider failed to prevent a recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The corrective and preventative action submitted by the registered provider did not address the issue of non-compliance listed under this regulation.

Supporting documentation submitted

A staff roster was submitted subsequent to the inspection on 17 January 2024. However, this roster did not set out the staff/child ratio for each area of the service, neither did it provide details of the break times for each person to demonstrate that there was sufficient cover for staff breaks. Staff rosters were submitted to NREP on 13 March 2024. It was not clear that there was adherence to the staff/child ratio during staff lunch breaks. A student's name was included in the staff/child ratio during staff lunch breaks in the pre-ECCE room.

Summary Comment

This issue remains outstanding. This will be assessed at the next inspection to ensure regulatory compliance.

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

Basic Needs

- Meals and snacks were served on a rolling basis for the ECCE children and outdoor-based children, with no set times. The babies/toddlers had their meals and snacks on a regular basis.
- The children in the baby/toddler and pre-ECCE rooms had their nappies changed regularly by the adults. For children who were toilet trained, the adults were observed to support the children as necessary.
- The children's need for sleep was facilitated in the two sleep rooms with 12 cots, and 8 stackable beds for the older children (over 2 years) to rest.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs

1. On 9 January 2024, the children's basic need of warmth and comfort was not observed to be met. Children attending the outdoor service (41 children) were not observed to be appropriately dressed for

the weather and being outdoors on a full day care basis (7am to 6pm). The air temperature was 0°C. Some children were observed in inappropriate clothing, which included light fleeces, dresses, tights and no child was observed to wear thermal outdoor suits. Some children did not have hats/scarves/gloves. The registered provider advised that waterproof suits were available, but no child was observed to wear these over their clothing. Staff advised that they had spoken to parents about providing appropriate outdoor clothing, but the service did not enforce that children needed to be appropriately dressed to spend the day outside while it was 0°C. The registered provider must ensure children have access to a variety of clothing during all seasons. One child was observed to fall in mud, their clothing had to be completely changed as they were not wearing an outdoor suit. Staff were not observed to guide and support children who were unable to fasten/zip their coats. On the last inspection, there was a system of assigning children to a staff member, however, staff advised that this practice had ceased. This may have contributed to staff not ensuring that children were adequately dressed for the weather and with coats fastened and hats/gloves on.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that staff fasten children's coats and where children undo their zips, the staff will re-fasten coats and most of the children have hats and gloves.

Supporting documentation submitted

The registered provider referred to photographic evidence of children in outdoor clothes.

Summary Comment

This matter is addressed, this will be assessed at the next inspection to ensure regulatory compliance.

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.

Infection Control:

- The cots in the large sleep room were well spaced apart, which reduced the risk of cross infection.
- Aprons and gloves were readily available for nappy changing procedures.

Administration of Medication:

- The registered provider advised that no child attending the service on 9 January 2024 required medication. The inspectors were advised that medication is administered following the service’s own medicine policy.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep room temperature for the larger of the 2 sleep rooms was 19.4 degrees, which is within the appropriate temperature range.
- Records showed that children sleeping were checked every 10 minutes, with their position, colour, breathing checked and initialled by the supervising adult.

Outing:

- No outings were observed on 9 January 2024.

Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

1. An Immediate Action notice was issued on the 18 January 2024 as neither fire door exiting the two sleep rooms were readily openable to the early years inspectors, this may impede a quick exit in the case of a fire. The registered provider submitted photographic evidence of doors that were open. A referral was made to the fire officer in this regard. This was reassessed on site by inspectors on 24 January 2024 and one fire door in the larger sleep room was found to be easily openable and the second fire door had been repaired as it had swollen and was now openable. This work was completed after 9 January 2024.

General Safety:

2. In the outdoor area, an area of decaying wooden planks with a protruding screw was observed. Children were playing without direct sight supervision of staff in this area which may lead to injury. It is

acknowledged that the registered provider submitted photographic evidence of this area having been cleared of the wooden planks subsequent to the inspection on 9 January 2024.

3. Portable heaters cannot be used in preschool services. All heaters must be fixed to one position, and not portable. Portable electric heaters were in use in the baby room, sleep room, and outdoor sheds were not fixed to one position. The registered provider advised that these additional heaters were put in place during the cold weather, temporarily. This was reviewed on 24 January 2024 and portable heaters were still found throughout the service. This poses both a fire hazard and a safety risk to children of getting burned.
4. On 24 January 2024, a fence in the outdoor area was observed to have been blown over. The fence was a portable metal fence held together with bungee cords and zip ties. The fence had blown over in a storm however, the fence posed a risk of blowing over on a child when the service was in use as it was not stable. The outdoor fence must be secured as to prevented children having access to dangerous farm machinery.
5. On 24 January 2024, in discussion with the register provider, they advised the inspectors that children had access to cleaning chemicals. They described the process of cleaning in the service whereby that staff spray the cleaning chemicals on the tables and other wipeable surfaces and children are then asked to wipe them clean. This poses a risk of skin irritation for children and the risk of chemicals being ingested or getting into their eyes.

Infection Control:

6. There was no hot water available in the toilets located in the outdoor area on 9 January 2024. The water temperature was 7 degrees Celsius. This temperature will impede effective handwashing and could lead to the spread of infection. A lack of hot water was also found on inspections on 28 September 2022 and 15 September 2021. This was also discussed at a regulatory compliance meeting with the registered provider on 11 January 2023, where the registered provider agreed to ensure hot water would be available to children for hand washing. However, this was not found to be in place on 9 January 2024. On 24 January 2024, this could not be reviewed as there was no power in the service.
7. There was evidence of mould growth on one cot frame in the sleep room, and on the wall of one of the children's toilets. There was a musty and damp smell in the two sleep rooms. This environment may lead to respiratory illness.

8. The bin in one of the children's toilets was overflowing with an opened lid, which may lead to the spread of infection.
9. The nappy changing mat in the changing area off the reception room was torn, as was the tablecloth placed on top of this mat. This may lead to the spread of infection. This issue was found on the previous inspection of 12 September 2023. The registered provider responded in writing to state that the nappy mats will be monitored, and a spare mat kept so any torn mats can be replaced with immediate effect. However, this was not found to be the case on 9 January 2024. The registered providers written commitment had failed to prevent a recurrence of this non-compliance.
10. The baby nappy changing area had 2 stations which were observed to be dirty, both on top and underneath the changing mats. The issue of dirty changing mats was found on the previous inspection of 12 September 2023. The registered provider responded in writing to state that the changing table, mat, and all surfaces were properly cleaned and will be maintained. However, this was not found to be the case on 9 January 2024. The registered providers written commitment had failed to prevent a recurrence of this non-compliance.
11. Children's spare clothes were not stored appropriately to ensure these were kept clean and hygienic. Clothes were observed to be stored openly in the nappy changing area off the reception/kitchen area. This posed a cross contamination risk which may lead to the spread of infection.
12. The adult toilet facilities had no single use disposable paper towels for hand drying, as the dispenser was found to be empty on the day of inspection. This posed a risk of spreading infection. The dispenser was located outside of the toilet facilities, which meant if paper towels were available the adult would have to leave the toilet facilities to dry their hands, which posed a risk of cross contamination.
13. Two urinals were in place in the toilet facility in the outdoor container, these stored toilet brushes on 9 January 2024. Toilet brushes should not be stored in such a manner as may be accessible to children and/or lead to the spread of infection. The storage of toilet brushes accessible to children was found on the inspection of 28 September 2022. It was also discussed in detail at the regulatory compliance meeting with the registered provider on 11 January 2023 regarding the potential for E-Coli infection. At that meeting the registered provider gave an assurance that toilet brushes would not be accessible to children, however this was not found to be the case on 9 January 2024.
14. There was no soap available in one of the outdoor toilets, which impedes effective handwashing and could lead to the spread of infection.

Safe Sleep:

15. Two mattresses that did not fit the cot properly were observed, this could give rise to a foothold and injury to a child. This issue noted in the previous inspection of 12 September 2023 and the registered provider responded in writing to state that all mattresses now have the right sized fitted sheets to prevent footholds in the cot. However, this was not found to be the case on 9 January 2024 and the registered providers written commitment had failed to prevent a recurrence of this non-compliance.
16. Ten cots either had no waterproof mattress protector or a mattress protector that did not fit the cot properly. This issue was noted in the previous inspection of 12 September 2023. The registered provider responded in writing to state that all waterproof mattress protectors are now the correct size. However, this was not found to be the case on the day of inspection. The registered providers written commitment had failed to prevent a recurrence of this non-compliance.
17. Sheets in the cots were not observed to be in a clean and hygienic condition, stains and debris (fluff and dust) were observed on their surface on the second day of the service reopening following Christmas holidays. While linen was reserved for the sole use of each child, as cots were not shared, linen must be changed weekly and as required. Unclean cot sheets may lead to the spread of infection.
18. There was a large plastic bag of toys, and other loose toys and cushions stored in the larger sleep room. Sleep rooms cannot be used for general storage as it may be a source of distraction to children, impede a restful environment and pose a trip hazard in the sleep room.
19. The single cot in the smaller sleep room was observed to be very dusty with cobwebs on its base. Dust and cobwebs may lead to the spread of infection or cause respiratory issues in children.
20. Hanging, accessible cords from a plug-in thermometer and a plug-in sound machine (to play white noise during sleep time) were in the larger sleep room. The electrical cords of the dehumidifier and heater were not secured in the sleep room. This may present a potential strangulation hazard to children. Hanging cables were found in the inspection of 28 September 2022. Following that inspection, the registered provider stated that cables were secured, however, the preventative measures did not prevent a recurrence of this non-compliance.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action & Supporting documentation submitted

Fire Safety:

1. The registered provider stated that staff check the fire doors daily and both are fully functioning. Maintenance was carried out on the fire door in the smaller sleep room, where the door frame had been shaved back to ensure the door was openable. This was found to be the case on 24 January 2024 on inspection. The registered provider gave a verbal undertaking to open the fire doors regularly and ensure it is repaired should it swell further.

General Safety:

2. The area of discarded decayed wooden planks was removed and photographic evidence submitted. The registered provider stated the staff conduct checks outdoors.
3. The registered provider stated in their response of 7 February 2024 that wired heaters can be installed. The registered provider submitted photographic evidence that the current portable heaters were fixed in place, with electrical cables out of the reach of children on 13 March 2024 in their representations to NREP.
4. The registered provider stated that the fence was secured to timber posts by wire and posts buried in ground. Several items of photographic evidence were submitted by the registered provider on 13 March 2024 in the representations to NREP.
5. The registered provider stated that only water will be used by children to clean tables. A new spray bottle labelled as water was submitted as evidence on 13 March 2024 in the representations to NREP.

Infection Control:

6. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024 that hot water is available in the outdoor toilet area for children to wash their hands and that due to the electricity outage on 24 January 2024 this was unable to be demonstrated. Photographic evidence of hot water was submitted by the registered provider on 13 March 2024 in the representations to NREP.
7. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that an air filter operated in the rooms to prevent dampness. Photographic evidence of the air filter was submitted. The registered provider stated that the bathroom was repainted. No evidence of the cleaned cot frame was provided, the statement of this action by the registered provider was accepted.

8. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that further instructions regarding emptying the bins were provided to cleaning staff and a larger bin was purchased for the children's toilet.
9. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that nappy changing mats were replaced with more robust mats and photographic evidence was provided.
10. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that nappy changing mats are more readily cleaned with the replacement mats now in place. Photographic evidence of the signage around cleaning mats were submitted.
11. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that spare clothing was removed from the nappy changing area and now stored in the playrooms/ corridor. Photographic evidence was submitted in support of this corrective action.
12. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that extra paper towels are available to staff and the dispenser is refilled as necessary. Photographic evidence was submitted in support of this corrective action.
13. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that when in use, toilet brushes are inaccessible to children. Photographic evidence of toilet brush signage was submitted.
14. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that soap is available at sinks. Photographic evidence with a supply of soap was submitted in support of this corrective action.

Safe Sleep:

15. Photographic evidence of all cots with mattresses were submitted by the registered provider in their representation to NREP on 13 March 2024.
16. Photographic evidence of all cots with a waterproof mattress cover was submitted by the registered provider in their representation to NREP on 13 March 2024.
17. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that the cots were fitted with clean sheets on the day prior to inspection and stated that fluff may have come from the clothes drier or children's clothes. Weekly or more regular laundry of sheets is conducted in the service according to the registered provider.
18. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that the sleep room will not be used to store toys and other materials.
19. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that the cot was inspected and cleaned. The provider stated that the cot frames are cleaned weekly.

20. The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that the cot is pulled away from the area of cords when in use, and the heater is behind a gate and all cords are secured and inaccessible to children.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted by the registered provider was reviewed. The following issues were accepted and will be reviewed at the next inspection, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Concern remains in relation to point 4, the outdoor area was not in use after the storm; however, the outdoor fencing must be adequately secured and stable. While evidence was submitted, the inspector and inspection and registration manager were unable to determine the adequacy of the outdoor fencing.

This issue remain outstanding as regulatory compliance has not been achieved.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure that the service was adequately insured. The insurance policy covered 65 children to attend the childcare facility at any one time, however, 73 children were found to be in attendance on 9 January 2024. Therefore, the service was not suitably covered by insurance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that updated insurance cover was submitted on 25 January 2024.

Supporting documentation submitted

The registered provider submitted evidence of insurance to cover 85 children dated 24 January 2024.

Summary Comment

Concern remains that the registered provider increased the insurance cover on 24 January 2024 and had been operating without adequate insurance prior to this date. Regulatory compliance was achieved after day 2 of inspection.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

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

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(c) The premises was adequately lit with a balance of natural lighting supplemented with artificial lighting. The two care rooms, baby/toddler and ECCE pod were adequately heated to 18.2°C, within the accepted range of 18 to 22°C on 9 January 2024.

Non-Compliance Information

(c) Three rooms were not adequately heated on 9 January 2024. The nappy changing room off the reception/kitchen had a temperature of 12.2°C. The temperature of the nappy changing room adjacent to the Baby/Toddler room was recorded at 13.9°C, which was also below the recommended range of 18°C to 22°C. This temperature was cold for children to have their clothing removed and may make nappy changing uncomfortable. The temperature in the smaller sleep room was 14.9°C on the day of inspection, and this may impact a child's ability to sleep comfortably. This is below the appropriate range for a sleep room of 16 to 20°C. Room temperatures could not be reviewed on 24 January 2024 as there was no power in the service.

(e) The service was not equipped with suitable sanitary facilities.

Location	Facilities
Baby Room	2 nappy changing mats, 2 sinks
Reception	1 nappy changing mat, 1 toilet, 1 sink
Pre-ECCE pod	2 toilets, 2 sinks
Outdoor toilets (container)	3 toilets, 3 sinks,
Outdoor office	1 toilet, 1 sink
Adult toilets	2 toilets, 2 sinks

While they were 6 children's toilets and 3 nappy changing stations in place, however, the registered provider advised that the outdoor toilets (x3) were not in use in the converted container. These did not have hot water and 1 toilet was without a toilet seat. These toilets remained easily accessible to the children.

Therefore, suitable toilet facilities were not in place for the 73 children present on the day of inspection. Excluding the outdoor toilets, 3 nappy changing mats and three sinks were available, and 4 children's toilets and 3 sinks were available, therefore an additional sink with thermostatically controlled hot water was required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(c) The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, steps have been taken to ensure the changing rooms are adequately heated, and that the sleep room is within the required temperature range when it is in use.

(e) The registered provider stated on 7 February 2024, that the service has 11 fully functioning toilets.

Supporting documentation submitted

(c) The statement of the registered provider was accepted in lieu of evidence.

(e) The registered provider provided photographic evidence of toilet seats being in place in their representations to NREP on 13 March 2024.

Summary Comment

The response by the registered provider was assessed. The issues of Regulation 29 (c) and (e) were accepted and will be reviewed at the next inspection.