

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN003		
Name of Service:	Angel's Nest Creche and Playgroup		
Address of Service:	Yew Park, Virginia, Virginia, Co. Cavan		
Eircode:	A82 W089		
Name of Registered Provider:	Cynthia McAuley		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date(s) of Inspection:	05/07/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM 27
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co Meath.		
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham & D Murray		
Title:	Early Years Inspectors		
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

Angel's Nest Crèche and Playgroup Ltd is one of two services owned by the registered provider. The service provides full day, part- time day care, and a sessional for children from 12 months to 6 years. The service also provides a school aged service. There are six care room in the service two upstairs namely the senior preschool room which caters for school aged and preschool children during the summer months, Preschool room 2 was closed for the summer months. The four rooms downstairs are the Baby room, Toddler room and Preschool room 1, the fourth room was not in use on the day of inspection. The service operates from 8.00am-18.00pm each weekday.

Staffing

There are fourteen staff members employed in the service, which includes a manager, assistant manager, supervisor, nine childcare practitioners, a cook and household staff member. There were ten adults present who provided direct care to children on the day of inspection. The cook was also present on the day of inspection.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.
- (2) Fourteen staff members are employed in the service. These files were reviewed.
- (a)& (b) Twenty-eight references were available.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures was available for all staff members.
- (d) Police vetting was available for the three staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) The childcare staff members held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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) There were an adequate number of adults working with the children throughout the inspection.
- (2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection.
- The rooms were as follows:
- Baby room:** Two staff cared for 6 children ranging in age from ranging in age from 1 year to 2 years. All children were attending on full day care.
- Toddler room:** Two staff cared for 9 children ranging in age from 2 years to 3 years. All children were attending on full day care basis.
- Preschool room 1:** Two staff cared for 11 preschool children ranging in age from 3 years to 4 years. Ten children were attending on a full day care basis with 1 child attending on a part-time basis.
- Senior preschool room:** Two staff cared for 2 preschool children and 16 school aged children. All children were attending full day care.
- Preschool room 2 (upstairs):** Closed on the day of inspection.
- Preschool room (downstairs)** Closed on the day of inspection.
- (8) (a) The designated person in charge ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

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
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Adequate, suitable, nutritious, and varied food and drink was observed to be available for each pre-school child attending the service. Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack and meal without being rushed.
- The privacy and dignity of each child was respected. Toileting and nappy changing were carried out in a sensitive manner in the Baby and Toddler Room. Each child has access to a change of clothes if needed.
- The children in the Preschool room were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence. Regular hand washing was observed by the children.
- The children enjoyed freedom of movement in the pre-school rooms in use.
- Children enjoyed a variety between indoor and outdoor play.

Supporting Relationships around the Children:

- The children's need for rest, relaxation and comfort was met as each of the care rooms were provided with a rest area consisting of soft matting and cushions. The children were able to access the rest area as they chose for play or quiet time.
- The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs at children's level in the care rooms. The children showed confidence around the staff members and an eagerness to engage with them in conversations and play. The children appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or

(b) Where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.

Compliance Information

(1)(b) A cot room with four cots was available in the Baby room. The Toddler room used stackable beds for sleep for the children over 2 years of age. Within the care rooms there were soft furnishings, mats, and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.

(3)(a) There was a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to the rear of the premises.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The care rooms had some defined areas of interest. The play materials and equipment incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts, a range of suitable toys and books which were easily accessible on open shelving at the children’s height. In the Baby room for example there was wooden shape sorters and blocks, a treasure basket, cars and trucks, kitchen area with equipment, push along toys, soft relaxing area with books and a pull to stand rail.

The outdoor area was divided into 4 areas using fencing with grass surfaces. The Baby room had access to a grass area directly off their room, equipped included a swing and slide, mud kitchen, sit on toys small, covered bench and blocks.

Equipment in the outdoor area included Animal trays, Sand/water trays, planting areas, activity walls, wooden activity units with slides and swings, small goal posts, mud kitchens, push along scooters and construction areas.

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

Childrens food was prepared and cooked freshly on the premises on a daily basis by a designated cook. The food provided was appropriate for the age of the children and adequate for the length of time the children were in attendance in the service. Children were served snack at 10.45am and this consisted of seasonal fruits. At 12md dinner served was chicken curry and rice. The children attending the Baby room were served their meals in highchairs and were supported and encouraged to feed themselves. Drinks were always available to the children in the all-pre-school rooms.

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:

The following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The main door to the service was secure with a key and a staff member allowed access into the service and the outdoor space was enclosed with fencing and walls with secure side gates. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.
- All play materials were placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children present in the service.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- Playrooms, the sleep room, communal areas and sanitary areas were adequately ventilated by mechanical ventilation and by natural forms of opening doors and windows.
- There was liquid soap at the wash hand basins to facilitate hygienic hand washing for children and adults. Paper towels were provided in the dispensers in all the sanitary areas used by the children and adults to facilitate hygienic hand drying.
- There was 2 designated nappy changing rooms one in the Baby room and the second in the Toddler room and nappy changing procedures were carried out in an appropriate manner.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Trailing flexes were present from the fan and the music speaker in the Toddler room which presented as a risk to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Corrective Action

A shelf has been added to our toddler room to hold the fan and music speaker.

Preventive Action

Consistently ensure all flexes are out of children's reach.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the fan and music speaker flexes out of reach of children submitted.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has addressed the noncompliance in Regulation 23.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis.

(3)(a) All persons are approved by an employee prior to entry to the pre-school.

(b) Visitors are announced and approved by an authorised staff member on arrival, the visitors' details are entered into the visitors' book.

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 a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 1st June 2023.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced on the 06/07/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The mains powered smoke alarms service record was not available for inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Corrective Action

Certificate is now located beside the fire alarm system.

Ensure all documentation on maintenance carried out within the service is received within 24 hours of work being completed and appropriated displayed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Certificate of maintenance of smoke alarms submitted to the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider addresses the noncompliance in Regulation 26.