

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN059
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Name of Service:	Superkids Pre-school
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Address of Service:	Ballydurrow Community Centre, Ryefield, Virginia, Co. Cavan
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Eircode:	A82 A306
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sean Enright
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	12/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>24</td> <td>PM</td> <td>No.</td> </tr> </table>	AM	24	PM	No.
AM	24	PM	No.		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No. 18 The Grange, Plantation Walk, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

This community run service commenced in 2003. It provides a sessional service to children aged 2 – 6 years. The service operates from 9:25am – 12:25pm and caters for a maximum of 33 children. The service partakes in the ECCE scheme Monday to Friday. This service is located in the rural area of Ballydurrow Co. Cavan and operates from the local community centre. There are 2 care rooms, sanitary accommodation, an office, a kitchen and sensory room. There is an outdoor play area to the back of the service.

Staffing

There are 7 staff including the person in charge who work directly with the children. One other adult is employed as a cleaner.

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 and safety. 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 deputy 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,

(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) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and named deputy person to deputise as required. The deputy person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived and was present throughout the inspection.

Following a service file review and a discussion with the deputy person in charge it was confirmed to the inspector that there were 3 new members of staff present in the service since the last inspection.

The staff files in relation to the 3 staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection:

(2)(a) There were 2 written and validated references for 1 staff member and 1 written and validated reference available for a second staff member from a previous employer. This staff member also had a 2nd written reference.

(c) A processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for all 3 staff members.

(d) From the documentation available international police vetting was available for the 1 member of staff who had resided outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the childcare qualification for the 3 new adults in the service met the minimum qualification required to enable them to work directly with the preschool children.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) One staff member did not have 2 written and validated references.
One staff member's second reference was not validated.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) The staff members written reference has been checked by the chairperson. It has also been validated by the manager of the service and is now in the staff files.

The manager asked the chairperson of the service to bring down the written references files and manager has checked that there are two written and validated references checked by the chairperson and now in the staff file.

The second staff member's reference has been validated by the manager and retained on file.

The registered provider will double check that all staff references have been validated and signed off completely.

Supporting documentation submitted

Staff written and validated references submitted.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate is satisfied that the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified in Regulation 9.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service there were 2 rooms in operation. During the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.

(3) The following child adult ratios were observed:

Sunshine Room:

There were 8 preschool children aged 2 years and 9 months – 3 years and 7 months cared for by 2 adults.

Little Stars:

There were 16 preschool children aged 3 years and 8 months – 5 years and 6 months cared for by 3 adults.

The child: adult ratios were correct.

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

There were 2 care rooms in operation on the day of the inspection namely Little Stars and The Sunshine Room.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs:

- All children were afforded a change of environment to the outdoor area.
- Children were supported with independence in toileting and brought inside to use the toilet when outdoors. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children after toileting and messy play.
- Children who were upset that they had got mud all over themselves were brought inside and assisted to clean themselves before returning outside to continue playing.
- Tissues were available in the rooms and brought outside with the children.
- Drinks were brought outside on several occasions to the children while they played outside in the warm weather. When the children were indoors independence was promoted in the Little Stars Room with the children going and getting drinks for themselves from the water dispenser in the room.

Supporting Relationships

- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner. Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the children and staff for example "*sharing is caring*" and "*let's use our words.*"
- Parents were informally communicated with at drop off and collection times and it was reported that an electronic application and a phone messaging application were also used.

Physical and Material Environment

- A variety of age-appropriate toys and materials were available in the care rooms and accessed by the children during free play. Various interest areas had been developed and these supported areas of development such as fine motor skills, role play and sensory development.
- Toys and equipment were positioned on open low-level shelving which promoted independence and facilitated free choice for the children.

Programme Of Activities

- Children's artwork was on display, including egg box daffodils, paper plate art, collage people and sponge and handprint paintings. There were scrapbooks of the children's artwork for each child.
- Activities that promoted the children's language development were observed with the reading of story books.
- A key worker system was in operation.

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-

(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.

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

Compliance Information

(1) There were quiet areas in both rooms for a child to sit and relax in and take a break from activities if they wished to do so.

A sensory room was available upstairs for the children. It was cosy with dimmed lighting and under water themed wall art. There was a large ball pit area, bean bag, jigsaws, sensory tent, small trampoline, push toys, wooden bench area with fleecy blankets and table and chairs.

(4) The children had access to an outdoor play area which consisted of 3 different surfaces:

Area 1 was tarmacked and partially covered. The children were able to ride their trikes, scooters and small cars in this area. There was a sand pit, plastic table and chairs for tabletop activities, a wooden house and chalk for drawing on the ground.

Area 2 was a grass surface where the children could play football, could dig in a digging area, had a raised planting bed, water shoots and small sink to access water to play with.

Area 3 was a separate enclosed area with fine stone surface. It contained a large wooden climbing frame with slide and a bridge. There were tyres, a seesaw, water shoots and rockers.

Non-Compliance Information

The blue shell shaped sand pit was broken and had sharp edges. This is a potential injury hazard.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The blue shell shaped sand pit has been removed from the garden.

Staff will carry out risk assessments on outdoor equipment on a daily basis outside. Any broken equipment will be reported to management and removed immediately. Risk assessments will also be highlighted at staff meetings.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response is accepted and adequately addresses the non-compliance identified.

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

It was observed that the registered provider has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service including:

General safety:

- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- All emergency exits were clear and unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were in use in the service and were appropriately maintained.
- There was a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and single use paper hand towels available to support effective hand washing.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There were unprotected sharp corners on some of the shelving units in both rooms. These are an injury hazard.
2. There was a trailing electric cable from an unsecured speaker in the Little Stars Room. This was accessible to the children and therefore a potential impact risk.
3. In the Little Stars Room there was a glass tumbler on top of the water dispenser which the children were observed using. This is a potential impact hazard. Additionally, the water dispensers in both rooms were unsecured and also potential impact hazards.
4. The door into the kitchen area off the Sunshine Room was unlocked throughout the inspection and potentially accessible to the children in this room.
5. The date of the last service of the firefighting equipment was March 2021 and is outside the recommended yearly service.

Infection Control:

6. The nappy changing mat in the service was torn and this does not allow for effective cleaning.
7. It was reported that hot soapy was not used at all times to clean suitable toys. This is also at variance to the infection control policy.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. All sharp corners now have protectors to prevent any injury.
Corner protectors will be maintained and re-applied if necessary. This will also be documented in a risk assessment form.
2. Trailing cable and speaker have been removed from the room.
All cables will be out of reach of the children in the room. Any cable that may be used will be documented in the risk assessment form.

3. Glass and water dispenser has been removed from the room. Jugs of fresh water have been put in place so children can still pour their own water.
All children will now pour their own water from the jugs.
4. The manager has contacted the local authority Fire Officer regarding the door in the kitchen area off the Sunshine Room and is awaiting a visit to the service. In the interim, it has been suggested by the Fire Officer, that the door can be locked during operation hours until he visits and inspects the premises.
The door will remain locked during preschool operation hours until the Fire Officer visits and gives further advice.
5. The fire protection company was contacted and have serviced the fire fighting equipment.
The registered provider will contact the company a month beforehand as a reminder that a service is due on all firefighting equipment.

Infection Control:

6. The nappy changing mat has since been replaced with a new one.
Staff will carry out weekly inspections to ensure there are no tears on the mats and if so, it will be reported to the manager and the mats will be replaced immediately.
7. Staff have re-read the Infection Control Policy and will now clean toys with hot soapy water.
The staff will be reminded of the Infection Control Policy, to wash the toys with hot soapy water. It will also be discussed at staff meetings.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Receipt for new changing mat.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate is satisfied that the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection. These will be for review at the next inspection.

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 firefighting 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 was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. A fire drill was last carried out on 27/04/23.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The equipment was last serviced 3/21 and 28/4/23 respectively.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Evidence of adequate insurance cover for up to 33 children was available expiring the 27/3/24.