

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS136
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Name of Service:	Giraffe Childcare Lucan
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Address of Service:	Ballyowen Lane, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78 EV80
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Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	04/06/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	44	PM	43
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Brien & L. Magee
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
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Description of service

Giraffe Childcare Lucan is a full day care service provided by Giraffe Childcare Limited which provides 23 childcare services. The service provides full day-care, part-time care and sessional care and caters for children from 0 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 07:15 to 18:45, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in an urban area and occupies the ground floor of an office building beside the Ballyowen shopping centre in Lucan, south Dublin. There are six care rooms in the service. On the day of inspection five rooms were open. The Wobbler 1 room caters for children aged 1 year. The Wobbler 2 room caters for children aged 1 and 2 years. The Toddler room caters for children aged 2 years. The Junior Preschool room caters for children aged 3 years. The Preschool room caters for children aged 3 to 5 years.

There is a dedicated cot room and there are fully enclosed outdoor play areas at the front and rear of the building.

Staffing

The service currently employs 21 staff including a manager. There were 13 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The service also employs a chef and a cleaner. The area manager arrived during the morning of the inspection. The registered provider does not work directly in the service and was not 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9(1)(a)(b),(2),(4) Management and Recruitment,
11(1),(2),(8)(a) Staffing Levels,
15(1) Record of a Pre-school child,
19(1)(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
29(d) Premises.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 20(1)(b) Facilities for rest and play. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

15 Record of a pre-school child,
19(1)(a)(b) Health, welfare and development of child,
23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,
29(d) Premises.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler 1, Wobbler 2 and Toddler rooms.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

Regulation 20(1)(b) Facilities for rest and play,
29(d) Premises.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler 2 room.

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

(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 a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2) Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that six adults commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 20 June 2023. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the twelve references that were required, ten were available from a past employer and two were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the six staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was required for five staff members and was available for these staff members who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that four staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were forty-four children attending the service being supervised by thirteen adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of eleven records were reviewed. Ten of these records contained the information required in (a) to (i) above.

Non-Compliance Information

(e)(h)

One record did not contain details of authorisation to collect a child or a record of immunisations, if any, received by the child.

This posed a risk to the child as details were not available in the event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(e)(h)

One record that did not contain details of additional authorisation persons to collect a child or a record of immunisations have been placed on file. All paperwork will be cross-checked by management prior to children starting and we shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances.

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

(1)(a)(b)

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and staff reported that all meals are provided by the service. Children are offered breakfast on arrival and a fruit snack is provided during the morning. Dinner was served at 11:45. Drinking water was accessible to children throughout the day and all children were given water with their dinner. Children were provided with bibs for dinnertime. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff supported younger children who needed assistance with their dinner. Additional servings of dinner were available. Staff were observed asking children who had finished their meal if they wanted more food and additional servings were provided for children who requested more.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's noses as required and children's hands and faces were cleaned after dinner as required. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including cleaning up after their play and meals. Children's nappies were changed regularly and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care.

There was a designated nap time in the Wobbler 2 and Toddler care rooms. Staff in the Wobbler 1 room stated that children are placed to sleep when they display signs of tiredness and staff were observed placing children to sleep when they required a nap.

Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff interacted warmly with the children throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff were observed to use encouragement, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's behaviour management policy. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during play and mealtimes.

Staff described how they record information about each child's day using an online application detailing information on food, sleep, nappy changes and activities.

Care rooms were arranged to provide a range of play materials and areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Areas of interest included small world toys, construction toys, jigsaws, rest areas and home corners. The care rooms provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and were adequately resourced with a variety of materials. Family photos, birthday displays and children's artwork were displayed in the care rooms.

The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care rooms.

Two fully enclosed outdoor play areas were available on the grounds of the service. There was a grassed area at the rear of the building which is by the Wobbler 1 and Wobbler 2 rooms. There was also a large outdoor area at the front of the service with shock absorbent surfacing which is used by the older age groups. The outdoor areas were equipped with a range of developmentally appropriate play equipment.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Appropriate rest facilities were not provided for all children under 2 years of age in the Wobbler 2 room. Five children aged 1 year were observed on floor beds during the designated nap time. These beds were not fitted with firm, flat, waterproof and breathable mattresses.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b) Three of the five children in the older wobbler room have since turned two years old and sleep on sleep mats. Two of the children have been placed back in cots until they turn two years of age in July and November. All children sleeping or resting will be provided with a cot under two or a comfortable sleep mat once they turn two years of age. The Management and staffing will ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of all children attending the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

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

The inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

- The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- All blind cords were secured.
- Room temperatures were maintained between 18 and 22°C where children over 1 year were sleeping.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication if required.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the Wobbler 2 room, the cupboard beneath the sink was not safely secured and three bottles of cleaning agents were accessible posing a safety risk if accessed by a child.

- In the outdoor area, to the front of the service, sections of the shock absorbent rubbing matting were observed to be broken and coming away from the ground posing a tripping risk to the children.

Infection Control:

Inspectors observed a number of practices which posed a risk of transmission of infection within the service:

- Some nappy changing practices observed during the inspection were inadequate for infection control purposes and at variance with the service's nappy changing procedure as follows;
 - A staff member was observed to redress a child with the same used gloves,
 - A child's nose was cleaned while the adult wore the same gloves used for nappy changing,
 - A child was observed with a toy in the nappy changing area,
 - Children's hands were cleaned with wet cotton wool following a nappy change which is ineffective for infection control.
- Staff and children were observed lifting the lid of the bin to dispose of waste in the Wobbler 2 and Toddler care rooms.

Safe Sleep:

- While it is acknowledged that parents had given consent for five children under 2 years of age to sleep on floor beds, there was no individual sleep plan in place for these children who were observed on floor beds during the inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The press lock within the wobbler 2 room has since been replaced and is secure.
- A quotation was secured to repair sections of the shock absorbent rubbing matting in the garden and is scheduled to be repaired.

Infection Control:

- Staff in the two rooms highlighted during inspection have been refreshed and full demonstrations of the Nappy changing policy and Infection Control policy have been completed to eliminate cross contamination. Training completed by all staff.

- Staff have since been reminded to use the foot pedal when opening the bins, training has also been provided. The bins within the two rooms highlighted have been placed out of sight of children and children will be reminded and shown how to use the foot pedal in the event of using the bin during activities or meal times.

Support will be given to staff to ensure practice is in line with the policy. Signage has been placed around the bin areas to prompt staff when operating them. The Management team will ensure that all practice and safety measures are constantly checked to ensure that it is in line with best practice. Management will ensure staff are following best practice in relation to all aspects of care and safety in the indoor and outdoor environment.

Safe Sleep:

- No children under the age of two years rest on sleep mats unless they pose a risk to themselves. Individual risk assessments will be completed and will be used in conjunction with families should they be required.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Infection Control:

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Safe Sleep:

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required,

Compliance Information

(d)

On the day of inspection, the Wobbler 2 room appeared clean and well maintained.