

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS141
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Name of Service:	Griffeen Valley Childcare
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Address of Service:	20A Moy Glas Wood, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78 K383
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mridul Sharma
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	01/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Griffen Valley Childcare is a privately owned early years service which was first established in 1998 and has been operated by the current registered provider since June 2024. Care and education are provided on a sessional basis to preschool children aged two to six years through a morning and an afternoon session. An early childhood care and education (ECCE) scheme is in place. The service operates from the ground floor of a purposely adapted residential premises, the remainder of the building is rented out by a private landlord and is not accessible to the service. Two interconnecting care rooms are provided, and children have the freedom to move between the two during the session. An outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs four staff members including the registered provider. On the day of inspection three staff members were present and an adult engaging in a work placement programme. The registered provider was not present during the 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/ information and records/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

Documentation was reviewed in full in respect of Regulation 9(2)(3)(4) for each of the four adults employed to work in the service and the adult on a work placement programme. The following documents were available:

- (2)
- (a) (b)
- References were available from two sources for three of the adults, and from one source for one of the adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from The National Vetting Bureau was available for the five adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting was available for three of the adults who required it.
- (4) There was evidence that four adults had attained at least a major award at level five in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework for Qualifications. One of the adults did not require a qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) (b)
- There were no references available for one adult employed to work in the service.
 - There was no second reference available for one adult. The reference that was available had not been appropriately validated.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The missing references were asked to be sent by the member of staff, and they were both checked, signed, dated and added to their files. The service created a checklist that contains all the documents needed for each of the staff members. The manager will tick the box when received and the person in charge of checking it will write the date of the check and their signature. This way the service will make sure all the documents are ready before the starting date. The checklist will be kept on the first page of staff files to facilitate checks in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were nine pre-school children attending the service being supervised by four adults during the inspection.
- (8) (c) Not applicable, the service is not operated single handedly.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

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

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

A sample of documentation was reviewed for 12 children currently enrolled to attend the service by the inspector. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to points (a), and (c) to (i) of the above regulation for each of the records reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

- (b) Six of the records reviewed did not contain details of the date on which the child first attended the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service completed the starting date for all the kids that were missing it. To do so, the service checked the starting date on three platforms: online application, attendance record book and pre-registration form to make sure there is no mistake. In future, the service will make sure that dates are mentioned straight away when the service add the name on the attendance register.

A checklist was created to make sure all the information is filled in by the parents. The person in charge will go through the files once the parents bring them back and will make sure that all the information is filled. If there is some information missing, they will write the information missing on the checklist and get it corrected asap.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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-

(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

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place during the inspection.

The children moved freely around the care room, independently selecting which activities they would like to engage in both alone and with staff members as desired. The service followed a play based curriculum which was observed to be child led, and children were visibly content and engaged in play-based activities throughout the inspection. Staff members used prompts during play to extend activities and conversation, creating a language rich environment.

Children accessed the toilet independently and staff provided support to younger children where required. Staff availed of opportunities throughout the inspection for personal one to one conversation with the children and demonstrated a good awareness of each child's individual needs. Staff interacted warmly and respectfully with the children, addressing them by name, speaking in gentle tones and making eye contact.

Staff and children sat together chatting during lunch time creating a relaxed, sociable atmosphere. A rest area was provided within the room where children could relax or take a break from activities and drinking water was available in the care rooms. Staff managed behaviours using positive strategies and encouraged conflict

resolution. Children were encouraged to be independent in assisting with tasks in the care rooms such as tidying up after play and helping to give out lunches and drinks at snack time.

The children all spent time outdoors during the morning and were dressed appropriate to the weather.

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

General Safety:

The entrance door into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Pedal-operated, lidded bins were in place throughout the service to appropriately manage waste. Staff supported children to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, and before lunch. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. The person in charge outlined appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

Administration of Medication:

The person in charge stated that medications were not typically administered in the service. There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of temperature reducing medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during

discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Two uncovered radiators were located at ground level in the large care room and were accessible to the children. The surface temperature of the radiators was recorded to be 60°Celsius posing a risk of a burn injury to a child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The service programmed the boiler so that the radiators don't go over 45°C. A member of staff will check the temperature of the radiators in the morning before the session starts checking the temperature said on the boiler and using a thermometer to ensure they have a safe temperature.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

The assessment of Regulation 29(e) was limited to a review of corrective and preventive actions which were submitted previously by the service to address inadequate sanitary facilities being available to the staff and children, the findings were as follows:

An additional toilet and handwash sink were added to the service since the last date of inspection on the 20th September 2022. On the day of inspection, two toilets with two handwash sinks were available to the fourteen children who are currently enrolled to attend the service. A third bathroom and a handwash sink were available to the staff members employed in the service.