

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS208
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Name of Service:	MGW Childcare Ltd. T\A Tickles Childcare
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Address of Service:	38 Oldcourt Avenue, Firhouse, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 NH74
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mark Gibbons , Maria Ward
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	20/03/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	47	PM	36
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty and S Quigley
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

MGW T/A Tickles Childcare is a childcare service located in Firhouse, Dublin 24 which offers full time, part time and sessional care and education. The service is located in a purposely adapted dwelling for the provision of a pre-school service. The service operates from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday and offers a sessional service for 38 weeks of the year from 9.00am to 12.00pm and 9.30am to 12.30pm.

The service consists of four care rooms, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation. There is a secure outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were eleven staff members working in the service on the day of inspection including the manager and a cook. The registered provider does not work 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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child, safety and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25 and 29.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation Regulation 16 (1) (h) and (i).

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 children, person in charge and staff 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

(2) The inspection focused on the recruitment records of all staff members currently employed in the service. Fourteen staff files were reviewed.

(a)(b)

The registered provider demonstrated that they had considered the relevant references in relation to all staff members. Twenty three references from a past employer were available for fourteen staff members. A second reference was available from a reputable source for five staff members. Records were available documenting the references had been verified.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff members.

(d) Police vetting had been sourced for one staff member who had lived outside the State for more than six months as an adult.

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

Non-Compliance Information

(9)

(4) There was insufficient evidence that one staff member had the required level of qualification.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member is in the middle of completing her level 5 qualification at present.

Staff are not counted in ratio if unqualified and are based with a afterschool group.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation given.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance under Regulation 9.

This will be assessed on the next inspection.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service. On the day of inspection, there were forty seven children present in the service being supervised by ten adults.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

Compliance Information

(1)

- (h) A written record was available detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
- (i) A staffing roster was available in the service detailing hours of work for each staff member on the day of inspection.

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*

(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 service provided breakfast, a hot meal, and an afternoon tea to the children with the exception of snacks which all children brought from home. All children were supported to eat independently during meals, and staff provided assistance to children where required. The children sat together when eating, engaging in conversation with each other and the staff.

Drinking water was available in the care rooms at all times. Staff supported the children to clean their faces at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Bibs were provided for younger children when eating. The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Low level hooks were provided for coats and bags. The inspectors observed the children using the toilet as they needed. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during mealtimes.

Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed supporting the children in their work and play. The atmosphere in the service appeared calm and relaxed.

Younger children wearing nappies were changed regularly and as required. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children, addressing them by name and making conversation. Comfort was provided promptly if a child became upset.

Children's rooms were bright with lots of natural light. Family photographs and children's artwork was displayed. A variety of equipment and materials were visible and accessible to the children on low, open shelves. Equipment included Montessori materials, art and craft materials, puzzles and books. The rooms had space for free movement and floor play.

The children engaged in a sessional curriculum in the morning in the Preschool and Naíonra rooms which included Montessori work and free play.

Children were happily engaged enjoying the daily routine in the pre-school rooms cared for by staff who were familiar with each child and their personalities. Activities enjoyed by children included singing songs, story time, arts and crafts and free play. Children were observed to enjoy free play supported by staff. Young children were observed exploring their environment at their own pace.

Staff communicated with parents at drop off and collection times where important information relating to the child's day were communicated.

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:

- Emergency doors were kept clear to allow for timely evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- Blind cords were secured out of reach of children.
- Heavy furniture was secured to prevent tipping.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- Cleaning products were stored safely out of reach of children

Infection Control:

- Children's hands were washed at appropriate times to prevent the spread of infection.
- The Pre-school rooms and sanitary facilities were observed to be in a clean condition.
- Children's nappies were changed in a manner that reduced the risk of cross infection.
- Sanitary facilities were equipped with liquid soap and paper towels for handwashing.
- Pedal operated, lidded bins were available for the safe disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored appropriately in the original packaging out of reach of children.
- Parent/guardian consent had been obtained for medications which had been given to children attending the service.
- A sample of administration of medication forms were reviewed and completed according to the policy.

Safe Sleep:

- Inspectors observed staff checking sleeping children at 10-minute intervals and maintaining a record of the checks.
- Appropriate bedding was used to prevent overheating.

Fire Safety:

- Regular fire drills took place in the service and staff described to the inspectors the procedure in place.
- All emergency exits were kept clear.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The children attending the baby room's hands were not washed prior to snack time. It is acknowledged that a wet wipe was used to wipe hands however, this is ineffective for infection control.

Safe Sleep:

2. Four children under the age of two years were placed to sleep on low level beds. There was an inadequate risk assessment available which did not necessitate the reason for the children not to be placed to sleep in a cot.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

Verbal reminder issued to staff.

Safe Sleep:

Although staff had completed the sleep risk assessments to reflect each child's sleep needs, a more detailed sleep risk assessment was carried out for those it applied to as per the request of the inspectors.

Supporting documentation submitted

Detailed sleep risk assessments were submitted to the inspector for review.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider together with the supporting documentation will address the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There was a person trained in First Aid Responder available to the children at all times.

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.*

Non-Compliance Information

(e)

There were insufficient wash hand basins for the amount of children attending the Toddler and Preschool rooms. There were three toilets and one nappy changing station and two sinks. The requirement is for one wash hand basin for each toilet and nappy changing station.

It is acknowledged that one additional sink was installed since the last inspection however, there was a requirement for three additional sinks.

The above non-compliance has been found on the two previous inspections dated 8th June 2021 and 3rd April 2023. The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider have not addressed the non-compliance above.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Further to the completion of our building renovations, we will assess and plan to add one additional sink over the coming months.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance under Regulation 29.

This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.