

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY314			
Name of Service:	Giraffe Childcare Harcourt			
Address of Service:	Iveagh Court, Harcourt Road, Charlemont Street, Dublin 2			
Eircode:	D02 PN59			
Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date 1 of Inspection:	19/04/2023			
Date 2 of Inspection:	06/12/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	84	PM	86
Day 2	AM	74	PM	N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 2 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Finnegan Hayes & S. Taaffe
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

N/A

Description of service

Giraffe Childcare Harcourt is a privately operated full day care service located in Dublin 2. The service is one of twenty-three childcare services operated by the registered provider. The service caters for up to 110 children aged 0-5 years per day in a purpose-built building with nine care rooms, a cot room, an additional indoor play area, a kitchen, sanitary facilities, and an office and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The care rooms include:

Room name	Age group
Baby Safari	11-14 months
Wobbler Namibia	1-1.5 years
Wobbler Cameroon	1-1.5 years
Wobbler Acacia	1-1.5years
Wobbler Serengeti	1.5-2 years
Toddler Botswana	2- 3 years
Toddler Masai Mara	2.5-3years
Junior Preschool Kenya	3-4years
Preschool Madagascar	3.5-5years

An enclosed outdoor space available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

On day one of the inspection 30 staff were employed in the service including person in charge, 25 childcare staff, a relief staff member from another branch, 2 cleaners and a cook. An area manager attended the service for a short period during the inspection.

On day two of the inspection 27 staff were employed in the service including person in charge, two deputy managers, 23 childcare staff, a cleaner and a cook. An area manager attended the service 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

These inspections were unannounced and focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9; (4), Regulation 11; (2). On both days while day 2 also focused on Regulation 9(2)(c) and Regulation 25. The findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 area manager, 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-

(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

(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

Day 1

(4)
On **day one** of the inspection evidence was available to show that 27 staff who worked directly with the children held 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.

Day 2

(2)(c)
Garda vetting was available on day two of the inspection for 27 staff members who were currently employed in the service and 4 students who were present on the day of the inspection.

(4)
On day two of the inspection evidence was available to show that 25 staff who worked directly with the children held 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.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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

(2) Ratios were maintained during both days of inspection. The following was observed:

Room	Age group	Day 1			Day 2		
		No. of children	Staff available	Staff required	No. of children	Staff available	Staff required
Baby/Wobbler Safari	11-14 months	6	3	2	9	3	2
Wobbler/ Toddler Namibia	Day 1: 1-1.5 years Day 2: 18-26months	8	2	2	8	3	2
Wobbler Cameroon	Day 1: 1-1.5 years Day 2: 15-18 months	10	3	2	9	2	2
Wobbler Acacia	1-1.5years	8	2	2	closed	closed	closed
Wobbler/ Toddler Serengeti	Day 1: 1.5-2 years Day 2: 2-2.5 years	8	2	2	11	2	2
Toddler Botswana	2-3 years	9	2	2	10	2	2
Toddler Masai Mara	2.5-3 years	10	2	2	9	2	2

Junior Preschool Kenya	3-4 years	14	2	2	6	2	1
Preschool Madagascar	3.5-5 years	15	2	2	12	2	2

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

Day 2

- (1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were trained in First Aid Response (FAR). A review of FAR certificates and the service roster showed that four staff are trained in FAR and at least one of these is present in the service for the duration of the opening hours.
- (2) (a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were immediately available to the staff in the care rooms. These were adequately stocked and stored out of reach of the children.