

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015DY374 |
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| Name of Service: | Giraffe Childcare Elm Park |
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| Address of Service: | Elm Park, Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin |
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| Eircode: | D04 XP26 |
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| Name of Registered Provider: | Dearbhala Cox Giffin |
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| Service type: | Full Day, Part Time |
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| Date(s) of Inspection: | 19/04/2023 |
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| No of pre-school children: | AM | 68 | PM | 68 |
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| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | No.18 The Grange, Plantation Road, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan |
| Inspection undertaken by: | S. Skinnader and D. Murray |
| 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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not Applicable |
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Description of service

Giraffe Childcare Elm Park is a service provided by Giraffe Childcare Limited which operates 22 childcare services in Leinster. A full day care service is provided for children aged 0 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 07:30 to 18:30 Monday to Friday. The service is located in a purpose built 2 storey building in an urban development in Dublin 4. There are seven pre-school rooms. Three rooms are located on the ground floor, Wobbler Kilimanjaro, Wobbler Cameroon and Junior Preschool Kenya and four on the first floor, Baby Acacia, Wobbler Baringo, Toddler Serengeti and Preschool Madagascar. A dedicated cot room is also located on the first floor. There are two outdoor play areas, one to the front of the premises for the older children attending the service and one to the rear of the premises for younger children. On the day of inspection Wobbler Baringo Room was closed and the children and staff member had joined with the Baby Acacia Room.

Staffing

There are 17 childcare staff who work directly with the children including the person in charge and the deputy person in charge. The person in charge was not present on the day of inspection. Two other adults who provided support in the rooms were also present on the day of inspection; the support service manager who was working in a supportive role to the deputy person in charge and the area manager. Additionally, a cook and a cleaner are employed in the service.

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. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 Management and Recruitment (9)(4) and 11 Staffing Levels (11)(2).

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 registered provider, 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

(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

(4) The files of nineteen staff members were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included 1 staff member for whom there was inadequate evidence of qualification on the last inspection.

The registered provider ensured that 18 employees working directly with the children held the required qualifications or equivalent. One employee held a letter of qualification recognition to practice from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

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) On the day of inspection there were 6 rooms in operation namely the Junior Preschool Kenya Room, Wobbler Cameroon Room and Toddler Killamanjaro Room which were downstairs. Upstairs there was the Baby Room Acacia, Toddler Room Serengetti and Preschool Room Madagascar.

The following adult to child ratios were observed:

- **Junior Preschool Kenya:**

There were 14 preschool children aged between 2 years and 8 months – 3 years and 5 months cared for by 2 members of staff.

- **Wobbler Cameroon:**

There were 10 children aged 16 months – 2 years cared for by 2 members of staff.

- **Toddler Killamanjaro:**

There were 11 children aged 18 months - 2 years and 7 months with 2 members of staff.

- **Baby Room Acacia:**

There were 9 children aged 8 months – 1 year and 4 months cared for by 3 members of staff.

- **Toddler Serengetti:**

There were 10 children aged 2 – 3 years cared for by 2 members of staff.

- **Preschool Madagascar:**

There were 14 children aged 3 -5 years cared for by 2 members of staff.

The deputy person in charge and the support service manager were also working in the service and provided cover in the care rooms.

The registered provider was on the premises shortly after the arrival of the inspectors but did not remain on the premises. The area manager was also on the premises and remained for the duration of the inspection.

The child : adult ratios were correct.