

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL059
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Name of Service:	Charlies Childcare
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Address of Service:	Malahide United FC, Coast Road, Malahide, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K36 YA97
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ronnie Carroll
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	25/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	74	PM	70
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Coyle & 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	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Charlie's Childcare is one of 9 Early years services owned by the registered provider in the North Co. Dublin area. This service is located in the clubhouse of Malahide United Football Club with 6 care rooms in operation. The Preschool room 1 and Preschool room 2 rooms are located in one section of the building and the Toddler room and Wobbler room are accessed through a separate entrance to the rear of the service. The Senior Toddler room and Preschool room 3 are located in a separate modular building to the rear of the main building and have a separate entrance. A sleep room is located adjacent to the Wobbler room. A separate modular building is used as a staff room. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is provided to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs 19 staff members including the service manager who coordinates the day-to-day operational management of the service and a part-time chef. The chief operating officer and area manager were present in the service on the day of inspection and for the closing meeting at the conclusion of the inspection. The registered provider was present in 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

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 regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 25, and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulations 8, 24 and 30. These 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 registered provider, Chief operating officer, Area manager, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

(3) Where a registered provider has been unable for good and proper reason to notify the Agency within the time specified in paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be, of a change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2), the registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing of the change as soon as possible thereafter.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not notify the Early Years Inspectorate of a change in circumstances in relation to the following as per the schedule 4 Form for Notification of Change in Circumstances:

- The operating hours of the service are at variance with the hours the service is registered to operate. The service is registered to operate from 07:30am to 6:00pm but is currently operating from 7:00am to 6:30pm.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action & Preventive Action

Change of circumstances was completed on October 3rd.

This was an oversight on registered provider's behalf. Hours of operation were reduced to 7:30-6:00pm during Covid and CIC was completed for that. Service returned to standard hours of operation 7:00am-6:30pm in recent months, but the CIC was not completed as it was overlooked due to the fact their original hours of registration were previously 7:00-6:30pm. Going forward CIC's will be completed prior to any changes.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of CIC confirmation email was submitted.

Summary Comment

The change in circumstances form submitted by the registered provider has been approved, the regulatory requirement for regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances has been addressed.

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) The service manager was the designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person available to deputise as required.

(b) The service manager was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced on the morning of the inspection.

The files for all 21 staff members including the Chief Operating Officer, area manager and 19 staff members, were reviewed.

(2)(a) & (b) Two written, validated references were available for 20 staff members whose files were reviewed.

One validated written reference was available for one staff member.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the 21 staff members. The Garda vetting records reviewed 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 15 staff members who had resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as adults.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 17 staff members whose files were reviewed and who work directly with the children in the service including the service manager, area manager and chief operating officer held an appropriate childcare qualification at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a)&(b) A second validated written reference was not available for one staff member.

(4) Documentary evidence was not available to confirm that 3 staff members whose files were reviewed and who work directly with the children in the service held an appropriate childcare qualification at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(2) (a) & (b) Second validated reference received.

(4) One staff member has recently completed Level 5 with Progressive College. Final results are pending for her last assignments therefore manager doesn't have her cert/letter of completion but will forward as soon as possible. Two other staff members have completed the wrong childcare course and have been temporarily relocated to afterschool services while they complete a full level 5 award.

Preventive Action

(2) (a) & (b) This was an oversight in the hiring process. HR/Management has been reminded all staff files must be complete prior to start date. Area Managers will carry out regular audits on staff files.

(4) All staff members working in the Early Years will have a completed Level 5 prior to start date, or they will only work in our school age services.

Supporting documentation submitted

One validated written reference.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has forwarded one validated written reference for one staff member and has stated that 2 staff members who did not have qualifications available on the day of inspection are currently working with school aged children while they undertake their early years qualification.

The regulatory requirement for regulation 9 – management and recruitment has not been addressed and remains outstanding as evidence of the staff member who undertook an early year’s qualification has not been forwarded to the inspectorate.

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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service at 9am and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In the Wobbler room, there were 8 children aged 1 year 1 month to 1 year 6 months being cared for by 3 staff members.
- In the Toddler room there were 12 children (of whom 10 children were aged 1 year 6 months to 1 year 11 months and 2 children were aged 2 years to 2 years 4 months) being cared for by 3 staff members.
- In the Senior Toddler room there were 11 children aged 2 years 2 months to 2 years 6 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In Pre-school room 1 there were 15 children aged 2 years 9 months to 4 years being cared for by 3 staff members. One of the 15 children in this care room was attending the service on a sessional basis.
- In Pre-school room 2 there were 18 children aged 3 years 7 months to 4 years 6 months being cared for by 2 staff members. Two of the 18 children in this care room were attending the service on a sessional basis.
- In the Pre-school room 3 there were 10 children aged 2 years 9 months and 3 years 3 months being cared for by 2 staff members.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, as evidenced in staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained in the service.

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

Compliance Information

(1) (a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service.

Basic needs:

- The staff members in each care room were observed to care for the children in a kind manner using warm tones of voice and positive language. The staff members provided comfort and reassurance to children when needed and responded to children's requests for activities and comfort in a timely manner.

- Snack time and mealtimes were observed to be relaxed and sociable occasions as evidenced in staff members sitting and chatting with the children at mealtimes, with plenty of time allowed for the children to eat without rushing. In each care room children who were able were encouraged to feed themselves while assistance and encouragement was provided by staff members as required. Children in the Wobbler room and children in the Toddler room who needed them wore bibs over their clothes to protect them at mealtimes. Individual cloth face cloths were used to wash the younger children's hands after eating.
- The staff members were observed to be sensitive and responsive to the children's cues to use the toilet, with prompting, supervision and assistance provided when necessary. Nappies were changed regularly and promptly when needed, and the staff members were heard chatting warmly with the children during these procedures.
- Individual child-led sleep routines were facilitated in the Wobbler room as evidenced in these children being placed to sleep in a standard cot in the adjoining sleep room when they required sleep or showed signs of tiredness on the day of inspection. The children in each room had access to rest areas which were suitably equipped with mats, cushions and soft seating to facilitate children to relax and rest comfortably if they wished to do so during the day.
- All children in the service played outdoors on the day of inspection. The staff members ensured children were dressed appropriately before going outside.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The inspectors observed supportive interactions taking place between the staff members and children during the inspection as evidenced in the staff members in each care room speaking warmly and positively to and about the children and engaging with the children in a responsive and caring manner. Children in the Wobbler room and in the Toddler room were observed reaching out and hugging staff members unprompted with the staff members observed responding physically and verbally in an affectionate manner.
- Staff members communicated with parents and guardians on a daily basis, both informally during drop off and collection, and also through a software application which provided parents with information regularly during the day regarding their child's progress, activities and other relevant information.
- The inspectors observed that children's transitions were well supported. Visual and verbal strategies including songs were used by the staff members to inform and prepare children for up-coming activities and movement.

- Age-appropriate and positive strategies including distraction and problem-solving were among the techniques observed being used by the staff members to good effect to prevent the escalation of any minor problems that arose between the children.

Physical and material environment:

- The children in each care room were provided with suitable low-level tables and chairs. Chairs with sides and splayed legs were provided in the Wobbler room and Toddler room to support the younger children to sit stably. Children who could not yet sit unsupported were placed in highchairs at mealtimes.
- Play materials in each of the 6 care rooms were suitable for the age and stage of development of the children in attendance.
- Interest areas were somewhat defined with home and kitchen corners, construction areas, arts and crafts zones, rest spaces and library areas provided. These areas were adequately resourced, apart from the non-compliances detailed below. The library areas in each room contained a plentiful selection of books to support the children's language development and provide choice for storytelling.
- The outdoor play area was surfaced with artificial grass and provided space for movement and gross motor development. The outdoor play equipment provided included 2 rocking toys and a range of push along toys with the area providing space for running and free movement. The children attending the early years' service also had use of a separate fully enclosed outdoor sports pitch surfaced with short-pile artificial grass.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic needs:

1. In the Toddler room, the children's sleep needs were not managed at all times in a timely manner during the inspection. The inspector was informed that children in this care room were only facilitated to sleep at the designated sleep time after dinner and not before then. This inappropriate practice was observed during the inspection when a 2 year old child in the Toddler room was observed showing signs of tiredness for 30 minutes from 12.00midday (as evidenced in the child refusing dinner apart from a few spoonfuls of rice, rubbing their eyes and snuggling in to a staff member) before being placed to sleep on a stackable bed set up in the care room at 12.30pm, when the room was tidied up after dinner.
2. In the Toddler room the children's water bottles were not freely available to the children as they were stored in the fridge out of sight and reach of the children, apart from at snack times and mealtimes.

- This prevented the children from taking a drink spontaneously if they were thirsty during the day, without the assistance of a staff member.

Physical and material environment:

- In the Wobbler room and the Toddler room there was a heavy reliance on plastic toys, many of which were stored in enclosed canvas boxes fitted into wooden cubby-style shelving units. The enclosed boxes were snugly fitted into the shelving units which resulted in the contents not being easily visible or accessible and did not readily capture the children's interest. Furthermore, three of these canvas storage boxes in the Toddler room were also blocked by an adjoining shelving unit which prevented the boxes from being retrieved from their cubby unit. Furthermore, pictorial labelling was not available to guide the children as to what toys and play materials were contained within the boxes.
- There was a lack of sensorial toys in the Wobbler room, the Toddler room and Preschool 3 room. Apart from a tray-top table containing leaves, twigs and cones in the Toddler room, there were mostly plastic toys available in these rooms with limited sensory equipment provided or a variety of textures available to meet the development needs of the children. For example, sensorial materials such as sand, water, playdough, compost, dried rice or dried pasta were not provided in these rooms.
- The Toddler room was subdivided by a gated fence-style partition into two distinct sections with almost all available play materials provided in the enclosed section encompassing approximately one third of the 39.36 square metre room. The children's tables and chairs were stored in the larger space, away from the play materials. The room layout and the limited space provided for self-directed play curtailed opportunities for the 12 children who were present in the care room to engage in free movement in the entire space or have appropriate levels of choice within the environment.
- The dress up resources in both the Senior Toddler room and the Preschool room 3 were stored in boxes which snugly fitted into shelving units and were therefore difficult for the children to retrieve.
- There was no supportive equipment available at the play kitchen in the outdoor play area to enable the children to extend their play.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

Basic needs:

1. This was addressed at a staff meeting. Children who require an earlier sleep time will be facilitated, a bed will be brought into the room. Dinner time has also been brought back to 11:30am to facilitate the sleep needs of the children.
2. Bottles are now at children's level in the classroom and available to them throughout the day.

Physical and material environment:

3. New resources have been purchased. New clear boxes have been purchased please see photos. Pictorial labelling is now on the boxes.
4. New resources have been purchased. Further resources were purchased and are awaiting delivery.
5. Fence has been removed.
6. Clear boxes which are easily retrieved have been purchased.
7. Additional equipment has been purchased for the garden including a mud kitchen.

Preventive Action

Basic needs:

1. Staff have been reminded to follow all children sleep cue's and facilitate a variety of sleep times. Further training has been provided on October 19th.
2. Staff have been reminded of the importance of children being able to access drinks freely.

Physical and material environment:

3. Area managers and managers will ensure only clear boxes are used. Managers will monitor this closely.
4. The area manager and manager will do additional audits throughout the year. The rooms are generally replenished with new equipment each summer in advance of new term. Area managers will ensure managers do this in a timely manner. Staff were retrained on defined areas.
5. Permanent partitions will no longer be used.
6. Only clear boxes will be used. Managers have been reminded and Area Managers will ensure this.
7. The gardens have recently been renovated and extended and registered provider was in the process of purchasing additional equipment. Area manager will ensure this is done in advance going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documented and photographic evidence was provided.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child has been reviewed and accepted.

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:

- The doors leading into the premises were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. Three entry doors to the service were accessed using a keypad with both staff and parents of children attending the service having access to the code and access to the Montessori room 1 was facilitated by a staff member who, having sight of callers through the glass panels on the exterior door of the room, opened the secured door to facilitate entry.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The water temperature in the hot taps did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children on the day of inspection.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available at the wash hand basins in the service.
- Tables were observed to be appropriately cleaned before and following meals and snacks.

- The children in the service were facilitated to wash their hands before eating and following outdoor and messy play. Children who were toilet trained were gently reminded, and assisted when necessary, to wash their hands after using the toilet.
- Staff members wore individual aprons and disposable gloves for nappy changing procedures and washed their own hands and the children's hands each nappy change.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- The records indicated and staff members reported that sleep checks were carried out and documented at 10 minutes intervals, noting the child's position, colour and breathing pattern.

Fire Safety:

- The records reviewed indicated and the inspectors were informed by staff members that fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis to familiarise both adults and children of the procedures to follow in order to evacuate the premises in a safe manner.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Two children in the Toddler room were observed lying down on floor beds feeding themselves with bottles of milk as they settled to sleep after dinner. This posed a risk of choking, in addition to increasing the risk for development of ear infections and tooth decay.
2. A large beanbag formed part of the cosy area in the Wobbler room. Beanbags are not appropriate for use for children aged less than 2 years due to the risk of suffocation.

Infection Control:

3. The children in the Toddler room were taken as a group to the sanitary accommodation to wash their hands. While the staff member helped some of the children to wash their hands at the two low-level wash hand basins, the remaining children were observed sitting on and touching the floor. This increased the risk of cross contamination on surfaces and on the children's hands.
4. An unlabelled feeding bottle was observed in the Toddler room on the day of inspection. Staff members stated that they were familiar with and recognised each child's bottle by sight but this was inadequate for reducing the risk of cross-infection for the children in attendance.

5. One of the three nappy changing mats in the sanitary accommodation used by the children attending the Wobbler room and the Toddler room was torn at the seams leaving foam exposed which was an infection control hazard as the mat could not be thoroughly cleaned.
6. The paper towel that was used to clean the nappy changing mat in the sanitary area used by the children attending the Wobbler room and Toddler room was not hygienically dispensed. The roll of paper towel was stored on a shelf and subject to repeat handling.
7. The stackable beds used by the children attending the Senior Wobbler room were stored in the staff toilet, this is an infection control risk. Sanitary accommodation is not appropriate for storage of toys and equipment.
8. One of the toilet cubicles in the sanitary area adjacent to the Senior Wobbler room was used for storage including 2 upright fans, an air-cooling unit, recyclable art materials, 2 climbing wedges and a box of spare clothes for children. This is an unsuitable area for storage due to the infection control risks.

Safe Sleep:

9. On the day of the inspection four children aged 1 year 7 months to 1 year 10 months were observed sleeping on stackable floor beds without a mattress. When a floor bed is used for a child aged less than 2 years it must be fitted with a firm and perfectly fitting mattress of at least 6cm in depth that is designed for the specific floor bed. Furthermore, sleep plans incorporating robust risk assessments were not available for these children to demonstrate the children's developmental readiness to move from a cot to bed before they reached 2 years of age.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

General Safety:

1. This practice was stopped immediately and addressed at a staff meeting.
2. Beanbag has been removed and new cushions purchased.

Infection Control:

3. Children are no longer brought in groups for handwashing. A maximum of two children at a time.
4. All bottles are now labelled.
5. Changing mats have been replaced.

6. Paper towel dispensers are located in the bathroom, and additional dispenser has been purchased for blue roll.
7. These have been removed and storage area created for the beds.
8. All areas have been cleared. Additional shed has been purchased and installed for storage.

Safe Sleep:

9. Additional cocoon beds have been purchased. Sleep plans have been completed.

Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Further training on safe sleep was provided on October 19th. Safe sleep forms part of the induction process for all new staff members.
2. Originally in the FFP for this room the children were aged 2 years and above, and the beanbag was in the room. The age range reduced, and it was an oversight not removing the beanbag. Beanbags will not be used in any wobbler/toddler room going forward.

Infection Control:

3. Staff have been reminded of best practice in terms of handwashing and infection control.
4. Staff have been reminded of importance of correct labelling to ensure no risk of cross contamination.
5. Staff and managers have been reminded of the importance of regularly changing mats when needed.
6. Staff have been reminded of hygiene and infection control. The manager will monitor this closely to ensure compliance.
7. Area managers will ensure all bathrooms are cleared of storage items and beds are stored in a suitable area. These classrooms are new, and this was an oversight on managements behalf in planning for storage.
8. Managers will monitor this going forward and ensure all areas are kept clear, and items stored in appropriate areas.

Safe Sleep:

9. Staff and managers have been reminded of sleep policy and which beds to use for correct age group. The area manager will monitor this.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documented and photographic evidence was provided including receipts for 2 cocoon beds, paper towel dispenser and shed for storage along with sleep plans for 4 children were provided to the Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors reviewed the corrective actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider after the inspection. The registered provider demonstrated that the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child has been adequately addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) One child who was present in the Toddler room on the day of inspection was not documented as being present on their arrival to the service at 10.25am, as required. At 12.00midday the child's attendance was still not recorded. During the afternoon the inspector observed that the child had been retrospectively entered in the electronic attendance record as having arrived to the service at 11.26am which was incorrect. This posed a risk of the children not being counted under the daily supervision routines or in the event of an evacuation emergency.

(3)(a)(b) A system was not in place to record a visitor's attendance on the premises and the purpose of their visit. The inspectors were facilitated to enter and be present in the service without being requested to record their attendance.

Corrective Action

(1) All staff have been reminded of the importance of entering children's attendance in real time. This was addressed at a staff meeting and furthermore at a training day.

(3) (a) (b) A visitors' book is in operation in the centre and was on the day. Unfortunately, the manager forgot to ask the inspectors to sign in.

Preventive Action

(1) Managers will monitor this daily to ensure children are entered into the system at the correct time.

(3) (a) (b) The area manager addressed this with the location manager and the visitor book is displayed in a more obvious area to ensure usage.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of attendance record for Wobbler room

Summary Comment

The inspectors reviewed the corrective actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider after the inspection. The registered provider demonstrated that the non-compliance identified under regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance has been adequately addressed.

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

- (1) A person trained in first aid including first aid responder (FAR) training was immediately available to the children attending the early years' service as evidenced in the staff roster and the in-date FAR certifications provided for inspection in respect of a number of staff members.
- (2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in readily accessible positions on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A record was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service. Based on the records maintained and as reported by staff members, fire drills were carried out monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on 26/08/2024.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced in June 2024 and the smoke detection system on 01/05/2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) The Wobbler room was observed to be overcrowded on the day of inspection. The available floor space in the Wobbler room is 20.4 square metres. The space provided allowed for 7 children aged 1 to 2 years attending the service on a part-time or full day care basis. However, on the day of inspection there were 8 children aged 1 year 1 month to 1 year 6 months who were attending the service on a full day care or part-time basis being cared for in this care room. The records reviewed on inspection confirmed that 8 children attend the Wobbler room on a daily basis.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

When this classroom had its Fir for Purpose inspection, it was allocated 8 children, but over the age of 2. The age range reduced here in recent months which meant the floor space reduced which should have reduced the number of children to 7. This was an error on Senior managements behalf and was rectified immediately. The eldest child who was due to move to the next room did so the following week as there was space in the toddler room. The centre is not at capacity. Records are showing wobbler room for 7 children.

Preventive Action

The chief operations officer and area managers will ensure all rooms have the correct number of children per floor space. No other room is affected and the enrolments for the wobbler room going forward is capped at 7 children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Attendance registers for the Wobbler room indicating 7 children in attendance at any one time

Summary Comment

The inspectors reviewed the corrective actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider after the inspection. The registered provider demonstrated that the non-compliance identified under Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements has been adequately addressed.