

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL097
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Name of Service:	Lámha Beag
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Address of Service:	11 Boroimhe Hazel, Swords, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K67 XK57
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Name of Registered Provider:	Gabrielle Hand
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	23/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	21
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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:	S. Taaffe
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

The registered provider commenced operating a childminding service in 2005 and subsequently established a full day care service in this location in 2010. Lámha Beag operates from 7.30am to 6.00pm each weekday, closing for 2 weeks during the summer months and 1 week over Christmas each year. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 22 pre-school children from 0 – 6 years and currently accommodates children from their first birthday until they commence attending primary school. School aged children are not accommodated in the service. The service does not participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme; however, pre-school children attending this service are dropped to and collected from a number of ECCE services elsewhere in the locality each morning. There are two care rooms in operation in the service, namely the Baby Room and the Pre-school Room.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 4 staff members who work in the service on a daily basis and 1 staff member who works in the service in a relief capacity when required to cover staff absences, all working directly with the pre-school children. A further staff member engages in ancillary duties including administration, cooking and transporting children off-site to avail of ECCE programmes in separate early years services.

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, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 30. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under 16(1)(j)(k) – record in relation to pre-school service.

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.

Additional Information

Following the registered provider's submission of their CAPA on 20/06/2024, further information and evidence was requested to be submitted by the service to the Inspectorate on 28/06/2024 to confirm that the non-compliance under Regulation 30 (overcrowding) had been adequately addressed. The registered provider submitted a revised CAPA and evidence on 05/07/2024, within the required timeframe, providing assurances that the numbers of children in attendance have been reduced in order to comply with Regulation 30.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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 registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person appointed to deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider was present and in charge of the service when the inspector arrived unannounced at the service on the day of inspection and was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

All staff files were reviewed. These consisted of 7 files maintained in respect of the registered provider, for the 4 staff members who work in the service on a daily basis, for the relief staff member and for the staff member who engages in ancillary duties in the service.

(2)(a)(b) There were 2 written references available for the registered provider and 2 written, validated references available for the remaining 6 adults employed in the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 7 adults whose files were reviewed. 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 as required for 2 staff members who had lived outside the State as adults for more than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The registered provider and all 5 staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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

(2) The minimum adult to child ratios were maintained in the service throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed on the morning of the inspection:

- The registered provider and 2 staff members were caring directly for 13 pre-school children (of whom 4 children were aged from 1 year 4 months to 1 year 11 months, 8 children were aged from 2 years to 2 years 11 months, and 1 child was aged 3 years 3 months).

The following adult to child ratios were observed on the afternoon of the inspection:

The registered provider and 4 staff members were caring directly for 21 pre-school children (of whom 4 children were aged from 1 year 4 months to 1 year 11 months, 8 children were aged from 2 years to 2 years 11 months, and 9 children was aged from 3 years 3 months to 5 years 3 months).

Additionally, an ancillary staff member was present throughout the inspection preparing meals in addition to transporting children off-site to avail of ECCE programmes in separate early years services and collect them afterwards.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times. The registered provider and the staff member engaged in ancillary duties were present from 7.30 to 8.00am each day, at which time 1 staff member employed to work directly with the children commenced their shift with further staff members scheduled to be present with the registered provider during the service's remaining hours of operation.

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) The registered provider ensured a record was kept in writing in relation to the children's details as outlined in Regulation 15 (a) to (i). The inspector reviewed the registration forms for all 21 children in attendance on the day of inspection and each form was found to be appropriately completed with the required information.

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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(i) A weekly staff roster was available, and staff sign in records were maintained on a daily basis. The records included each staff members' arrival, departure and break times.

(j) A sample of 24 administration of medications forms maintained for children who had received medication in the service since the last inspection were reviewed and found to have been accurately completed, demonstrating safe practice. The forms included signed parental consent, evidence showing that a second staff member had checked and countersigned each dose of medication administered and also that signatures had been obtained from the children's parent or guardian to document that they were aware if medication was administered to their child over the course of the day and at what time.

(k) The service had a record in writing of accidents, injuries and incidents involving the children. Twelve of these records which were compiled since the last inspection were sampled and found to be clear and legible, and included parental signatures to document that they had been informed and were aware of the relevant incidents on the day of occurrence.

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 examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the service:

Basic needs:

- All children brought their own morning and afternoon snacks from home which included sandwiches, wraps, crackers, bread rolls, cheese, fruit and yogurts. On the day of inspection, a heated pasta dish served in a tomato-based sauce was provided for lunch to the children accommodated in the Baby Room at 11.45am, while the children who returned to this service following their attendance at ECCE sessions elsewhere ate their own snacks provided from home following their return to Lámha Beag after 12.00midday. Chicken curry with mixed vegetables and potato slices was served for dinner to all children in both rooms at 3.00pm. The hot meals provided in the service were sourced from an external catering company which specialises in providing meals to childcare facilities, with a batch delivery of these prepared meals observed being delivered to the service on the day of inspection, for freezing in advance of use. Water was provided to drink with meals and snacks and was also available for the children to take from low level shelving throughout the day, should they feel thirsty at any stage. The staff members sat and chatted with the children at mealtimes and encouraged the children to enjoy their meals in an unhurried manner. Children who were able were encouraged to and praised for feeding themselves with assistance provided by the registered provider and staff members when required.
- The children had their nappies changed regularly and in a timely manner with the adults heard chatting with the children during these procedures. Nappy changing took place on a changing unit which was installed following the last inspection, set up in a toilet cubicle in the sanitary accommodation adjoining the Baby Room, ensuring that privacy provided for each child during these procedures. Prompting, supervision and assistance when using the toilet was provided when required for the children who were toilet trained.

- The adults informed the inspector that the sleep needs of the children in the Baby Room were generally met in line with their home routine but that children would be facilitated to sleep when they showed signs of tiredness when required. The children's sleep needs were observed being met appropriately during the inspection as evidenced in children being supported to settle to sleep when they appeared tired, with the adults observed holding and gently rocking the children in their arms on a number of occasions before the children fell asleep. Once sleeping, the children were then transferred into a cot in the sleep room until they woke. Children in both rooms were observed to spontaneously access the cosy areas set up with covered foam mats and cushions, to rest and opt out of activities at times during the inspection.
- The children who returned from the off-site ECCE sessions provided in other early years services were facilitated to engage in outdoor play on the afternoon of the inspection.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The registered provider and all staff members were observed to work well together and supported each other in the care of the children and when planning and preparing food and play materials in readiness for up-coming activities. The adults updated each other on the children's care throughout the day which ensured the children's care needs were met in a timely and calm manner.
- The children demonstrated that they felt familiar and comfortable with the adults in the service as evidenced in the children reaching out physically and verbally to the adults for support or comfort and calling the adults by name. In turn, the adults were warm and responsive to the children and returned displays of affection when the children sought hugs and physical contact during the inspection.
- At the earliest signs of conflict, the adults used distraction and re-direction to good effect when children experienced challenges when participating in play and interactions during the inspection. The adults were observed appropriately supporting children to find positive solutions including suggesting alternative toys or taking turns, thereby preventing the minor issues observed from escalating and avoiding upset on the children's part.
- A written record of meals, activities, general wellbeing and, if relevant, nappy changes and sleep was maintained for the children in the Baby Room on a daily basis and this information was shared with the parents when the children were being collected from the service.

Physical and material environment:

- Suitable low-level tables and chairs were provided for the children in both the Baby Room and the Pre-school Room and were used for table-top activities and mealtimes. Highchairs were available for children who were not yet developmentally ready to sit unsupported in a standard chair during mealtimes.
- A chair for adults was provided in the Baby Room to allow adults working with the children sit and hold the children when required or sought during the day.
- There was an adequate variety of play materials and equipment in both rooms apart from the non-compliance detailed below. The play equipment provided in each room was suited to the ages and stages of development of the children present. Interest areas had been established and these included a library area, a construction area and a home area. Push-along toys were available in the Baby Room to provide opportunities for the younger children to engage in physical and gross motor activity. A wall mounted activity centre with spinning cogs, a xylophone, beaded wheels, mirrors and mazes was provided in the Baby Room to encourage the children's hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. Play equipment including jigsaws, wooden and plastic bricks, shape sorters, interlocking plastic toys and peg boards were provided in both care rooms to support the development of the children's fine motor skills. Art supplies were provided in the Pre-school Room, including a range of paint, brushes, paper and crayons. The library area in both rooms contained an adequate number of books to support the children's language development and provide choice for storytelling. The adults were observed reading to the children in both rooms during the inspection.
- The service's paved outdoor play area was accessed directly from the service's entrance hall and from the Baby Room and the space was fully enclosed by walls and fencing. Ride-on toys, a metal see-saw, a plastic playhouse, two low-level portable slides, rocking toys and three child-sized picnic benches were provided to support the children to engage in play when outdoors.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic needs:

1. The children in the Baby Room were not facilitated to play outside during the inspection, despite the pleasant dry weather conditions that prevailed throughout the day.

Physical and material environment:

2. Sensorial materials such as sand, water, compost, dried rice or dried pasta were not provided in the Baby Room or the Pre-school Room and were not accessible to the children in the outdoor play area. This non-compliance was also identified during the last inspection on 26/10/2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following corrective actions and preventive actions have been undertaken:

Corrective Action:

1. This was an oversight on the day of the inspection as the children always play outdoors in the mornings as part of routine practice, the registered provider can only put this down to slight break in routine on day of inspection.
2. New sensorial tables have been purchased, one for indoors and two for outdoors.

Preventive Action:

1. The registered provider has spoken to all staff regarding the importance of outdoor play.
2. Continued update of sensory-based equipment and upkeep of materials

Supporting documentation submitted:

- Documentary evidence was submitted to the Inspectorate in the form of photographs of sand tables and a tray top table containing dried pasta and toys to support water play in place in the service.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions implemented by the registered provider, as evidenced in the submitted photographs, have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 19(1)(a). The assurances provided by the registered provider that these corrective actions will be sustained on an on-going basis is accepted by the Inspectorate and this will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

- (1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day

Compliance Information

(1)(b) Adequate facilities for rest and sleep were provided for the number and age range of children attending the service. Four standard cots and 1 stackable bed was provided in the family sitting room, designated as the service's sleep room, which adjoined the Pre-school Room. This ensured that all children aged less than 2 years had access to a standard cot on a daily basis. Floor mats and cushions were available in both care rooms should a child wish to take a break from activities and rest.

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 entrance 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 service. A bell was provided at the service's entrance gate to allow parents or visitors notify staff members of their arrival to the service and a CCTV monitor in the Baby Room allowed staff members view visitors before facilitating their entry, if appropriate.
- The water temperature in the sanitary accommodation in the service did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.
- A door latch was in place out of children's reach, making the kitchen inaccessible to children.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The play materials and equipment provided in the service were stored on stable-based low-level shelving which reduced the risk of the furniture toppling over and causing injury to a child.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided to support hand hygiene in the sanitary accommodation on the premises.
- The children were facilitated to wash their hands before eating, after using the toilet and after outdoor play.
- Suitable disposable gloves and aprons were available and observed being used and disposed of by staff members for nappy changing procedures.
- The service implemented effective soother management procedures, with a microwave steam steriliser provided in the Baby Room and all individually labelled soothers stored in personalised containers when not in use.
- The children's water bottles supplied from home were individually labelled to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.
- A refrigerator was available to store perishable items provided by the parents for the children's snacks. This reduced the risk of bacteria growth in these food items.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored safely out of children's reach. No child was observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- All children aged less than 2 years slept in a standard cot on the day of inspection. Based on an examination of the children's attendance records maintained in the service, all children under 2 years of age had access to a standard cot on a daily basis.
- In discussion with the inspector, staff members described safe sleep practices. A review of the records indicated, and staff members reported that sleep checks were carried out and documented at 10 minutes intervals, noting each child's position, colour and breathing pattern.

Fire Safety:

- The exit doors in the service were clear and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Children's hands were not always washed after nappy changing.
2. The snacks supplied from home were served to the children directly on the tabletops, rather than on plates or in bowls, which was an unhygienic practice.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following corrective actions and preventive actions have been undertaken:

Corrective Action:

1. & 2. Again, this was an oversight on the day as all staff have been trained on best practice infection control, especially after nappy changing.

Preventive Action:

1. & 2. All staff refreshed on infection control policy

Summary Comment

The corrective actions and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider in relation to Regulation 23 have been reviewed by the inspector. Assurances given by the registered provider that the non-compliances have been addressed have been accepted and these will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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.

Compliance Information

(3)(a)(b) A system was in place to ensure that no person other than the children and their parents or guardians, employees, approved students or authorised visitors could enter the service. A visitor's book was maintained and on arrival to the service on the day of inspection the inspector was requested to record their attendance on the premises and the purpose of their visit.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) One child who was present in the Baby Room on the day of inspection was not documented as being present in the attendance register on their arrival to the service at 8.50am, as required. Instead, this child's attendance was recorded in the register at 10.10am when the inspector highlighted this to the registered provider. This posed a risk of the children not being counted under the daily supervision routines or in the event of an evacuation emergency. A similar non-compliance was identified during the last inspection on 26/10/2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following corrective actions and preventive actions have been undertaken:

Corrective Action:

The child attends infrequently, generally this is only possible when a full-time child is absent due to illness or on holiday; however, the registered provider understands the risk and going forward this child will always be marked in attendance.

Preventive Action:

All staff have been spoken to regarding the importance of ensuring that every child on the premises, regardless of their circumstance, must be marked in the attendance book and signed out accordingly.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider in respect of Regulation 24 have been reviewed by the inspector. Assurances given by the registered provider have been accepted and these will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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 always attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training and she stated that she was always on the premises when the service was in operation, ensuring that a person with FAR training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b) The first aid box was suitably equipped and easily accessible to the staff and available at all times for the children attending the service.

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. The last recorded fire drill took place on 26/04/2024 with the records indicating and the registered provider confirming that fire drills took place monthly since the last inspection.

(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 November 2023 and the smoke detection system in January 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the pre-school room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had insurance cover in place for 25 pre-school children attending the service on a full day care basis. The policy showed that the service was insured until 03/12/2024.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1) There was adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement of the 8 pre-school children aged 3 years 6 months to 5 years 3 months who were accommodated on a part-time or full day care basis in the Pre-school Room which measured 18.4 square metres.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) The Baby Room was found to be overcrowded on the day of inspection which impacted on the space available for children's play, work and movement.

A floor area of 24.1 square metres was available in the Baby Room.

On the day of inspection, 13 children (of whom 4 children were aged from 1 year 4 months to 1 year 11 months, 8 children were aged from 2 years to 2 years 11 months, and 1 child was aged 3 years 3 months) were present and this group of children required 32.3 sq.m.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following corrective actions and preventive actions have been undertaken:

Corrective Action:

(2) For some reason the Pre-school Room was left empty on the day of inspection and the space under-utilised. It's coming to the time of year where a lot of children are finished their term in the service and moving on to school. Three new children replacing the Baby Room leavers are part-time only leaving at 1pm or 1.30 pm daily. Additionally, the service is considering the option of splitting the pre-schoolers to morning session and afternoon session. Currently the Pre-school Room has a maximum 8 children on 2 days per week and 6 children on 3 days a week. Splitting their attendance will allow the service to effectively utilise space in both rooms. Additionally, the registered provider is continuously spreading out the numbers for the majority of children who attend on 4 days per week to evenly balance out for optimum space. Children will be always spending time outdoors in the large outdoor space.

Preventive Action:

(2) In the past week one child has left the Baby Room on 28th June and one child is due to leave on 12th July. Two children have left the Pre-school Room on 28th June and one child left on 4th July. There are also 2 children scheduled to leave on the 19th July and 2 children who are leaving on 26th August. Additionally, there are 5 children transitioning from the Baby Room to the Pre-school Room at the end of August for the start of next term. One child leaves at 1pm so only attends for 1 hour. Therefore, a total of 7 children will have left the Baby Room by the end of August. These are being replaced by 5 new starters, 2 of these new starts are finishing at 1pm daily Monday to Friday. The number of leavers and the lesser number of starters especially with 2 leaving daily at 1pm addresses the concern. Additionally, as stated in the earlier CAPA, the Pre-school Room which remains empty in the morning up to 12.30pm will be used to facilitate children from the Baby Room. As things stand currently there

are a lot of children on vacation and the service is closed from 19th July to 6th August, with a number of children also on holidays in August.

Supporting documentation submitted:

Copies of the children's attendance records in the service from 17th June to 5th July 2024 inclusive.

Summary Comment

The inspector reviewed the corrective actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider after the inspection.

The submitted attendance records show that between 8 and 11 children were present in the Baby Room during the period from 17th June to 5th July 2024 inclusive. The submitted correction actions and evidence and the assurances given by the registered provider that the numbers of children in attendance have been reduced in order to comply with Regulation 30 have been accepted by the Inspectorate. This will be reviewed on next inspection.