

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL103		
Name of Service:	Giraffe Childcare Rathborne		
Address of Service:	The River Centre, Rathborne Place, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D15 VCV6		
Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time		
Date of Inspection:	30/04/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	94	PM 94
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15		
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte and E. Finnegan Hayes		
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.

Description of service

Giraffe Childcare Rathborne is a full day care service in Dublin 15. The service is one of twenty-three services operated by the registered provider. This service cares for children between the ages of 0-6 years, Monday to Friday between 7:15am- 6:45pm.

This is a purposely built premises with ten care rooms. On the ground floor are the following rooms:

- Baby Baringo (1 -1.5 years),
- Wobbler Namibia (1-1.5 years),
- Wobbler Kilimanjaro (1 year 11 months -2 years),
- Wobbler Safari (2 years 3 months – 2 years 7 months),
- Toddler Botswana (2.5-3 years),
- Toddler Kenya (2 years 7 months -2 years 10 months),
- Pre-school Zambia (3 -3.5 years)

On the second floor is the:

- Toddler Cameroon room (3-3.5 years)
- Preschool Serengeti room (4-5 years)
- Preschool Madagascar room (4-5 years)

The premises also includes two dedicated cot rooms, and each care room has its own sanitary area. The enclosed outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs a total of thirty staff including a chef and cleaner. On the day of inspection, the service manager, two deputy managers and an area manager were present. The registered provider does not work directly with the children attending 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, safety, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 21 Equipment and Materials and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included Baby Baringo room, Wobbler Kilimanjaro room, Toddler Botswana room and Wobbler Safari room.

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

(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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and two named persons to deputise. The person in charge was present in the service when the inspectors arrived and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2) A review of paperwork and conversation with the person in charge showed there are currently 30 staff employed by the service. The files of seven staff who had commenced employment since the last inspection were reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff.

(a) Ten written and validated references were available from past employers.

(b) Four written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 30 staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for four adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.

(3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to seven adults before employment commenced.

(4) Evidence was available to show that five adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children in the service.

(2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. The following was observed:

Room	Age range	No. of children	No. of adults	No. of adults required
Wobbler Namibia	1-1.5 years	Room closed in am		
Toddler Botswana	2.5-3 years	11	2	2
Wobbler Safari	2 years 3 months - 2years 7 months	9	2	2
Preschool Zambia	3.5 years- 4 years	12	2	2
Baby Baringo	1-1.5 years	8	2	2
Wobbler Kilimanjaro	1 year 11 months- 2 years	12	3	3
Toddler Kenya	2 years 7 months - 2 years 10 months	10	2	2
Toddler Cameroon	3- 3.5 years	12	2	2
Preschool Madagascar	4-5 years	7	1	1
Preschool Serengeti	4-5 years	13	2	2

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

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

- (h) Attendance records detailing the arrival and departure of children on a daily basis were maintained.
- (i) A record was maintained of the staff roster which was reflective of the staff present on the day.
- (j) Following a review of a sample of eleven records, the registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for the administration of medication.
- (k) Following a review of a sample of seventeen records, the registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for accidents and incidents

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- There was adequate and suitably sized furniture in the care rooms for the number of children present. The furniture was observed to be durable well maintained and easy to clean.
- Shelving with resources was observed at the children’s level supporting choice and access to a range of toys and materials. The variety of equipment available was suitable according to the age and developmental stage of the children in the care rooms. Resources were diverse encouraging a range of play experiences.

- Resources were grouped in themes for example imaginative spaces including play kitchens and props, areas for rest with mats and soft cushions including a selection of books.
- All about me information, birthday displays, and family photos were observed on display in the care rooms supporting a sense of belonging for the children.
- The outdoor space included equipment that promoted gross motor movements such a seesaw, small climbing frame, and ride on toys.

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 service entrance was secure on arrival this prevented unauthorised persons entering the building and prevented children leaving the building unsupervised.
- Radiator covers were observed in place and blind cords were securely fixed.
- Water was thematically controlled to prevent risk of injury to the children.

Infection Control:

- Childrens bed linen was stored in individually labelled baskets.
- Hand towels and soap were hygienically dispensed in the sanitary areas.
- Pedal bins were available for the disposal of waste.
- Childrens soothers were stored in individual boxes.

Safe Sleep:

- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in rooms were children over 1 year of age were sleeping.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation procedures were observed on display in the care rooms.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Two trailing flexes in reach of children were observed in the Wobbler Safari room. This posed a potential risk of injury to the children.
2. A press in the Toddler Botswana room containing cleaning fluid was observed unlocked and accessible to children. This posed a risk of poisoning or skin irritation.

Infection Control:

3. Handwashing practice in the Baby Baringo room was not in line with HPSC guidance or service policy. Childrens hands were observed to be cleaned with dampened cotton wool following nappy changing. Effective hand hygiene practices require the use of warm water and liquid soap to prevent the spread of infection.
4. The laminate covering on a press in the sanitary area of the Kilimanjaro room was observed to be damaged. This posed an infection control risk and prevented effective cleaning

Safe Sleep:

5. Between 11:52am and 12:06pm children from the Wobbler Kilimanjaro room were observed to engage in behaviours posing a risk of injury during the transition to sleep in the cot room. The following was observed:
 - Children were observed to stand in their cots and push and pull the cots around them.
 - Children waiting to be placed into a cot were observed to run in between the cots as they were being moved.

Staff were present in the cot room and interjected intermittently with the children as they attempted to place and settle children into their cots but struggled to address all behaviours as nappy changing was continuing, and the wheels of the cots were not locked.

Fire Safety:

6. A gate located in the garden which forms part of the fire evacuation route was locked with a key code. Not all staff were aware of the code to open the gate. This may impede safe evacuation of the children in the event of an emergency. It is acknowledged that management were aware of the code.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. **Corrective action:** The trailing flexes have been secured.
Preventive action: Management will complete daily checks to ensure flexes are not in reach of children.

2. **Corrective action:** A secure lock has been put in place on the press and the cleaning products removed.
Preventive action: Presses at the children level will not be used store any cleaning products. Management will ensure locks are in place. This will be checked weekly.

Infection Control:

3. **Corrective action:** Staff in the Baby Baringo room have been retrained on handwashing.
Preventive action: The adjoining toilet area is now used to wash children's hands following nappy changing.

4. **Corrective action:** The press has been replaced.

Preventive action: Any damaged equipment that pose a risk to infection control will be logged with the maintenance team to be fixed.

Safe Sleep:

5. **Corrective action:** Staff in the Kilimanjaro room have been re-trained on the sleep policy.
Preventive action: The layout of the sleep room has been revised and all cots with wheels have been locked.

Fire Safety:

6. **Corrective action:** All staff have been retrained on the garden emergency code number.
Preventive action: Management will do onsite training on fire emergency codes during monthly staff meetings and ensure all new staff are informed on induction training.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Photographic evidence.

Infection Control:

- Photographic evidence.
- Training log.

Safe Sleep:

- Photographic evidence.
- Training log.

Fire Safety:

- Training log.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under regulation 23 have been 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 review of certificates and the staff roster showed that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.