

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015GY032

Name of Service: Blath Beag Crèche

Address of Service: Clochog
Oranmore
Co. Galway

Email Address: blathbeagcreche@gmail.com
odriscollaoife@yahoo.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ms. Aoife O'Driscoll

Type of service registered: Full Day Care ☒

Date of Inspection: 1 2 0 8 2 0 2 0

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 10 PM 10

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Tusla – Child and Family Agency,
Early Years Inspectorate,
Quality Assurance Directorate,
Clinical & Administration Building,
Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor),
Merlin Park,
Galway,
Co. Galway.

Inspection undertaken by : H. Heagney
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	Safety
------------	---------------------------------	--------

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



Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016
REF: F09: Version 2: 20.07.2020

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Description of Service	This ground floor crèche is situated in an adapted premise in a housing development in Oranmore, Co. Galway. The service offers full day care provision from 7.00hrs to 18.00hrs. The pre-school caters for a maximum number of 20 pre-school children at any one time. The service currently caters for children aged 5 months to 3 years of age. The preschool service operates with 3 playrooms namely the Baby room, Wobbler room and Toddler room. The service has a designated sleep room with 7 cots. Quiet rest areas are provided in each of the playrooms to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he/she chooses to. There is a secure all weather soft surface outdoor area to the rear of the premises. A play based preschool curriculum focusing on emerging interests is provided.
Staffing	The designated person in charge was on the premises on the day of the inspection with 4 additional adults working directly with the children. 6 adults work in the premises, all holding at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5. The adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.
Methodology	<p>Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was announced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service and advance notice had been given to the service of the planned inspection. This minimised disruption to service provision while services focus on re-opening and familiarising staff and children with new ways of working.</p> <p>The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.</p> <p>The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by—
- (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.
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information:

- (2)
- 2 staff files were presented for inspection; these staff had commenced employment in the preschool service since the last inspection.
- (a) & (b)
- 4 of the 4 written validated references on file in respect of these 2 adults were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.
- (c)
- Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 2 adults.
- (d)
- 1 of the 2 adults had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years and had the required police vetting.
- (7)
- (a)
- From observation and interview, staff were provided with appropriate information and training on the service policies and procedures, including those revised to address Covid-19 in relation to infection control, risk management, the incident planning and revised drop off and collection procedures in the service.
- Documentary evidence was available in relation to specific training the staff received in light of the Covid-19 pandemic on the correct procedures for hand washing, the revised procedures for drop off and collection of the children attending the care rooms and the revised procedures for cleaning the premises fixtures and fittings and infection control.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school Service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information:	<p>The inspection focused on the following policies and procedures: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management policy • Drop off and collection procedures • Infection control policy • Correct procedures for hand washing • Procedures for cleaning and infection control <p>These policies and procedures were reviewed and revised to respond to Covid-19. The said policies and procedures were communicated electronically to the parents/guardians and to the staff prior to the service re-opening on June 29th 2020. A hard copy of each of the policies and procedures was available on the premises in a designated folder.</p> <p>Parents/guardians and staff confirmed in writing that they had read and accepted the policies and procedures.</p>
-------------------------	---

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:	<p>(1)</p> <p>The staff rosters and 'my pod' tracking logs reviewed indicated an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. The adult / child ratio was correct and maintained on the inspection day.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the inspection. At 10.00hrs and at 12.30hrs there were 10 preschool children present (aged from 7 months to 2 years and 2 months) with 5 adults working directly, caring for these children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 babies was under 1 year of age, • 7 children were aged between 1 to 2 years, • 1 child was aged between 2 to 3 years.
-------------------------	--

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

Compliance Information:

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- Prior to the service re-opening the parents/guardians of each child proposing to attend were issued electronically with a letter to parents regarding return to crèche, specific measures to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 in the setting, details regarding public health measures, daily pod records and a Covid-19 return to service questionnaire. Additionally, parents/ guardians signed a parental agreement form and received copies of the updated policies, procedures, and response plans that included the risk management policy, the service incident plan, and the revised drop off and collection procedures.
- On speaking with staff, the inspector was informed that they verbally and electronically (utilising a bespoke childcare app) provided parents and guardians with daily information/ record sheets on their child's experiences in the preschool including food provision, nappy changing, the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. Childcare information was provided at collection times whilst maintaining social distancing and via text messages, by phone calls, using social media app and by email. Additionally the service has an information leaflet and newsletter system.
- The adults were observed to be interested in the children, spoke in low tones, listened to them and responded to their requests. The adults interacted in a positive way with the children e.g. they sat at children's level, maintained good eye contact, showed empathy and a good understanding of each child and were observed to be caring and supportive in their interactions.
- Adults were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them and talking to children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling and commentating, extending a child's activities and initiating games and activities.
- The adults present on the day of the inspection were kind, caring, nurturing and comforting whilst caring for the children. They cared for children by being 'lifeguards' while children engaged in free play, sensory play, games, football and assisting with / supervising meal / snack times.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- On the day of inspection, 2 rooms (the Toddler and Wobbler rooms) and 1 pod (10 children) was operating. The play equipment and materials that were specific to the children attending the rooms / pod were freely available and accessible to these children.
- Clearly defined special interest areas were developed in the pod.
Items in the Toddler room included foam steps, shapes, push and pull toys, musical instruments, books, tracks, dolls, prams and pots.
Items in the Wobbler room included foam matting, a baby bath, activity boards, suckers, foam shapes, a construction table, rattlers, musical instruments, a baby bath, dolls and mirrors.
Basins for sensory play were available. Staff advised rice, pasta, sand, water and soil were used while the service complied with public health measures.
- On the day of inspection, children were observed to engage in a variety of activities including sensory play, mix and match, playing house, ball play and at free play.
- Displayed on the walls were visual aids / photographs/ birthday board / posters / art and craft materials at a suitable low level for preschool children to see. Adults advised that the various art and craft materials hanging from the ceiling were cleaned as per public health guidelines.
- Play equipment and materials provided in the outdoor area supported a range of physically energetic activities and play experiences. An impact-absorbing surface covered the outdoor surface area. On the day of inspection, all children had numerous opportunities for outdoor play. Items included push and pull toys, rattlers, rockers, a slide, a house, transport vehicles, balls, a picnic table, an activity centre, foam shapes and wooden trunks. There was also a wall mounted white board, bunting, a clock, and butterfly decorations. There was a steel shed which accommodated extra storage.

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 door into the pre-school was secure to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.

Part VI - Safety

- The external outdoor play area was secured so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area.
- The doors into the kitchen, office, utility room, staff toilet and storage areas had a system of security and were thereby inaccessible to the children.
- All cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- Fire doors were unobstructed.
- Staff wore a uniform and used a disinfectant foot mat entering and exiting the premises. Wall mounted hand sanitiser stations were placed strategically near care room doors and at entry / exit doors. Additionally hand sanitizer was available for adults in the outdoor play area.
- Attendance records were completed daily for the staff and for the children attending the pod. A record of visitors to the service was maintained and included a Covid-19 safety questionnaire / agreement.
- Staff in the service completed a daily checklist / risk assessment relating to Covid -19 transmission.
- The manager completed a daily risk assessment.
- The staff clearly identified to the inspector the drop off and collection procedures for children. Parents and guardians phoned the service 15 minutes in advance of arriving to collect their child so there was no delay.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- A supply of hand sanitiser was available at the main entrance to the building and at stations in the childcare rooms and the outdoor play area.
- During the inspection, the children were assisted to wash their hands prior to eating, nappy changing, after respiratory hygiene, after playing outdoors and on entry / exiting the preschool service.
- Staff were observed using the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving their respected pod / care room and in the outdoor area.
- A supply of tissues was readily available indoors and in the outdoor play area.
- There was a designated nappy changing area and an airtight sealable bin for the disposal of nappies in each area. A second nappy changing area was being developed for the commencement of the 2nd pod system.

Part VI - Safety

- On the day of inspection all the children attending the service wore nappies.
- The nappy changing surface was observed to be clean and it was observed adults cleaned down the area prior to and after each child was changed. The mats were clean and intact.
- Adults involved in the serving of food and nappy changing used disposal aprons and gloves when nappy changing.
- The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled / stored within the nappy changing area.
- Table-tops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposal paper towels and disinfectant spray.
- There was a daily and a weekly cleaning schedule.
- The service displayed evidence of suitable sterilisation practices for babies and younger children's soothers.
- Waste disposal in the sanitary areas and playrooms were stored in foot pedalled lidded bins and thereby inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Children had a spare set of clothes available / kept in a wipe able sealable box.
- The care rooms and sanitary areas were well ventilated with a number of windows open. Ceiling vents in the nappy changing area were clean.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of the children within the childcare rooms and within the nappy changing room.
- The person in charge informed the inspector that cleaning supplies / disinfectant / hand sanitizers are monitored and replenished when required.
- The play equipment, materials and furnishings observed at inspection were in a good state of repair and were clean. The inspector was shown the revised daily cleaning schedules to respond to Covid 19 that detailed the cleaning and sterilising of toys including mouthed toys, furniture, fixtures / fittings, linen and soft furnishings.
- The soft matting, seating, and items hanging from the care room ceilings were clean and included in the daily cleaning schedules as were the mats situated inside the entrance door.
- On reviewing the staff roster for the week and through observation on inspection, the staff and children were allocated to a pod / care room in line with public health measures to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19 infection.
- When questioned the staff displayed an understanding of the requirement relating to Covid-19 related symptoms and the associated risks (close contacts and international travel from risk / red zone countries), the

Part VI - Safety

requirement to self-isolate and or quarantine and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment, correct hand and respiratory hygiene and where possible social distancing.

SAFE SLEEP:

- There was child size soft seating where children could rest or relax in each of the playroom.
- There was a designated sleep room with 7 cots. Additionally, 1 stackable bed was available for an older child requiring sleep.
- Children were observed sleeping on demand throughout the day.
- There was a safe sleep policy that detailed temperature, lighting, ventilation, space between cots and child safety requirements as per the 'safe sleep for under 2's best practice guidelines for childcare services policy'.
- The documented sleep records recorded the time an adult checks and the signature of the staff member. The records captured the times the adult physically checks a child and the sleeping child's colour, position, breathing and the temperature of the sleep room with the opportunity to document any necessary remedial actions taken.
- All linen provided for the cots was clean, dry and stored on shelving within the sleep room. The inspector was informed the linen was individual to each child.