

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY046			
Name of Service:	Bubbles Creche			
Address of Service:	No.7 Drisin, Ballymoneen Road, Knocknacarra, Co. Galway			
Eircode:	H91 C4E3			
Name of Registered Provider:	Fiona O'Donohue			
Service type:	Full Day			
Date 1 of Inspection:	07/06/2024			
Date 2 of Inspection:	20/09/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	16
Day 2	AM	24	PM	No.

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly,S Meehan.
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

This private run service was located in Knocknacarra in Galway city and operates a full day care early years' service for children aged from 0 months to 6yrs. The service operates from 7:30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. It comprises of 3 playrooms and dedicated sleep rooms. After lunch, a playroom is converted into a sleep area for children over 2 years of age to rest. It has a outdoor play areas at the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were 12 staff working in the service, which includes the registered provider. A service manager facilitated 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 and 19; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 19 and 23. 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.

Additional Information

A second day of inspection, 20th September 2024 was carried out to review the corrective and preventive actions taken as stated by the registered provider.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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.

(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.

, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme.”

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The service manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named persons who were able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, a service manager was on the premises.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the service manager, it was confirmed that there were 12 members of staff employed in the service, which included the registered provider.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

- (2)(a) There were 20 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.
- (b) There were 4 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than the most recent employer for the adults working in the service
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 12 staff working in the service.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosures was available for 6 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) All the adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at least to level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore 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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the morning of the inspection, there were 17 pre-school children, attending the morning session and 16 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.
- (2) At 10.30 am on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.
- Baby room, there was 1 adult caring for 4 children aged over 12 months.
 - Wobbler room, there were 2 adults caring for 4 children aged between 24 months.
 - Playschool room, there were 3 adults caring for 9 children aged between 24 months and 36 months of age.
- (8)(a) The staff rosters indicated that there were 2 staff members on the premises at all times

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
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS:

- Children were independent with their toileting needs and they have unrestricted access to the toilet that was located adjacent to the large playroom. Assistance was offered to the children when required.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunch and after toileting.
- The children had access to relaxation area and soft seating in the playrooms. Children over 2 years of age attending on a full day care basis had access to stackable beds and bed linen each day. One of the playrooms is converted into a playroom after lunch time each day. The children follow a routine each day where they take off their outer clothing and shoes and they each have their own allocated bed. A staff member remains with the children in the room while they sleep and physically check each child every 10

minutes. If a child wakes early or doesn't rest or sleep there are accommodated in another playroom or they play in the outside playroom. in they don't require sleep and rest.

- Children under 2 years of age have access to a standard cot in a sleep room adjacent to their playroom, they can sleep on demand and not just at allocated times each day.
- The children were encouraged to be independent in caring for themselves. The children were encouraged to put on their jackets , the staff members offered assistance but let the children do as much as they could prior to intervening. Children were also encouraged to get themselves when getting ready for their afternoon nap, by taking off their shoes and socks.
- The children playroom got to use the outdoor play area throughout the session. The children appeared happy and content exploring the different areas of the space, this was evident from the laughter while playing .
- The staff interacted with the children in a positive manner during the session, for example ,a staff member sat with 2 children while reading and looking at a storybook. The children had chosen what book they wanted read to them, they were very interested throughout the activity and this was enhanced by the probing questions the staff member asked the children, "Can you find an apple in the page," "What are the different coloured apples you can see" and " Do you like to eat apples". The questions asked by the staff member encouraged the children to engage and lead to further discussions and questions.

Non-Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS

1. The children in the Wobbler room and the Playschool room were offered food for their main meal that was not suitable for their age and stage of development.

The children were given chicken curry and rice that was pureed in the Wobbler rooms and mashed in the Playschool school and resembled food that was suitable for children under the age of 12 months. This pureed and mashed food did not offer texture, lumps and does not encourage chewing which is essential for the development of speech and muscle formation. On speaking to 3 members of staff they had expressed a concern that lumps in the dinner may resulting in children choking on their meals.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

2. The kitchen unit in the playschool room was observed to be broken, the toys and accessories for this unit were not readily available to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The response received did not contain any corrective or preventive actions to address the findings.

Summary Comment

A 2nd inspection took place on the 20/09/2024 to review the actions taken by the registered provider in response to the non-compliances identified:

1. The food observed on the day was mash potatoes and mashed carrots with fish fingers cut into bit sized pieces. The texture of the food was more age appropriate.
2. The toy kitchen was still damaged and was not suitably equipped with toy accessories. The manager informed the inspection team, that it will be replaced. No date was given for it to be replaced.

These issues will be reviewed on next inspection.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

The following points posed a risk of cross infection.

1. The nappy disposal bin, that was used in the baby room sanitary area was not adequate as it was not foot pedalled or airtight. On the 2nd day of inspection, the nappy bin was overflowing with used nappies.
2. The nappy changing mat in the nappy area used by the Baby and Playschool room was ripped and could not be effectively cleaned. On the 2nd day of inspection, the nappy mat had been replaced.
3. Children's spare clothing was stored in baskets and open bags on a shelving unit in the children's sanitary unit. On the 2nd day of inspection, an open basket of children's clothes was present in the children's sanitary area.
4. The staff toilet and the children nappy changing area off the front lobby was used as a storage area for cleaning products and cleaning equipment. On the 2nd day of inspection, the sanitary area was still used as a storage area for cleaning products and equipment.

5. The mechanical air vents in the nappy changing areas and the sanitary areas were dusty and required cleaning. On the 2nd day of inspection, there was traces of dust and dirt in the air vent in the nappy changing area.
6. The soft seating in the baby room was ripped and could not be effectively cleaned. On the 2nd day of inspection, the seating had been replaced.
7. The distances between the cots in the baby sleep room was between 17cm and 41cm and not the recommended 50cm to help prevent the spread of infection. On the 2nd day of inspection, a distance of 50cm was between each cot.
8. The baby sleep room was used a storage area for a number of items ,2 high chairs, boxes of toys, baby bouncers and an unlabelled box of sheets and blankets. On the 2nd day of inspection, the sleep room was no longer used as a storage area.
9. Of the 4 cots present, 2 of the mattresses did not have wipeable cover and there was no evidence that waterproof mattress covers were used by the service. On the 2nd day of inspection, all 4 mattresses had wipeable covers.

GENERAL SAFETY.

10. Staff 's personal belongings which included handbags and coats were stored on the floor of the staff toilet. Which may pose a safety risk to the children attending as the staff toilet door remains unlocked during the inspection. On the 2nd day of inspection, a staff members open hand bag was observed on the floor of the staff toilet.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

It is acknowledged that the registered provider submitted a response to the finding of the non-compliances under regulation 23, but on the 2nd day of inspection points 1,3, 4, 5 and 10 were found to be still non-compliant.

Supporting documentation submitted

7. On the 21/06/2024, the registered provider submitted photographs of the sleep room, where items had been removed and the distances between each cot appeared to be greater than 50 cm, and also of a clean ventilation vent.

Summary Comment

A 2nd inspection took place on the 20/09/2024 to review the actions taken by the registered provider in response to the non-compliances identified.

Points 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9 had been addressed by the registered provider.

The following points remain outstanding as they had not been addressed by the registered provider.

1. The nappy changing bins had not been replaced and were observed to be overflowing.
3. Children's clothes continued to be stored in the sanitary area.
4. The sanitary area continues to be used for storage of cleaning equipment.
5. the air vents had not been cleaned.
10. Children continued to have access to staff belongings in the staff toilet.