

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015GY049

Name of Service: Burren View Creche & Montessori

Address of Service: 76A Burren View, Ennis Road, Gort, Co. Galway.

Eircode: H91 D658

Name of Registered Provider: Linda Fallon

Service type: Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

Date(s) of Inspection: 04/03/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	17
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.

Inspection undertaken by: S. Meehan and F. Kelly.

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

The creche is in a private residential area, in the town of Gort in county Galway. A full day-care, part-time care service, an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme and sessional care programme is offered. The preschool caters for children aged between 0- 6 years, from Monday to Friday between 8 am and 6 pm. The service also offers a school aged programme.

The service has two playrooms namely the Montessori room and the Playgroup room, sleep room, there is also an office, sanitary accommodation and kitchen facilities for preparing food onsite. There are also two outdoor play areas to the rear and side of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider is also the designated person in charge and works on the premises daily. There is a designated deputy in charge. Four adults who were working in the premises, hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, at Level 5, on the National Qualifications Framework. An additional there are 2 adult (Students) who work in the service kitchen preparing meals and in the playrooms on placement.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 and there was a named person available to deputise as required in the service.

(b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived and remained for the duration of the inspection. The designated person in charge or a deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

All 4 staff and 2 student files were reviewed:

(2)(a)&(b) Twelve written validated references were on file from a past employer or reputable source for the 6 adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of 6 adults working in the service.

(d) Two adults worked outside the jurisdiction, for longer than six consecutive months or more, while over the age of 18 years and had the required police vetting disclosure.

(4) Four adults who were working directly with the children, had evidence of an award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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

A sample of policies and procedures specified in Schedule 5 were available and reviewed. The policies reviewed included:

- Complaints Policy,
- Policy on Behaviour Management.

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) On the morning of the inspection, there were seventeen preschool children present with 4 adults working directly with, caring and supervising these children.

In the afternoon, of the inspection, there were seventeen children present being cared for by 4 adults.

The student carried out cooking duties in the service kitchen and was on placement in the playroom.

(2) The adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the day.

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

19(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS:

- The children ate their snacks provided by their parents and guardians. Perishable items were stored in the fridge prior to snack time. The morning snack consisted of fruit, crackers, cheese and sandwiches and the choice of milk or water.
- The hot meal of the day was chicken curry with rice with milk or water.
- Crockery and plates were offered and used during children's snack and meal times and were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.
- Children's own water bottles were available and accessible on a drinks table to allow children to self-serve when thirsty in each playroom.
- The adults supervised children's hand washing before and after snack time and after toileting.
- The children who were toilet trained, toileted independently or with some assistance as required.
- Children in nappies were changed in a timely manner by adults.
- Children were observed to be put down to sleep as required and 10-minute physical sleep checks were carried out.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- Information was shared with parents and guardians in relation to their child's care during the day at collection times, via text messages, by phone calls, a multi-media application.
- Adults interacted in a positive way with the children e.g., they sat at children's level, maintained good eye contact and were familiar with each child's needs.
- The service was observed to be respectful of inclusion and diversity within the setting. Childrens dietary requirements, culture, food and nationality was catered for.

- Children were observed in circle time, tabletop activities, sharing the thoughts on a book called 'The Bear that Snores'.
- The theme of the week was 'Mother's Day' and children made cards to send home. The Montessori children were colouring in St Patricks Day shamrocks.

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) The service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid responder for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Two adults had up to date first aid responder training and two adults had current training in first aid for children.
- (2)(a) There was two first aid box with the content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had full day care insurance for up to 33 preschool children and was valid until the 28/03/2024.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service, and
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall-
- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and
 - (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the complaint has been dealt with.
- (5) The requirement in paragraph (4) is without prejudice to any requirement to retain the record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) under any other enactment or rule of law.

Compliance Information

- (1) (a)(b)(c) The service's complaints policy outlined:
- The procedure to be followed by a person making a complaint in relation to the service.
 - The way a complaint shall be dealt with.
 - The procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the way it is being dealt with.
- (2) (a)(b)
- No written complaints were made in respect of the preschool service.
 - The service's policy requirement to retain records in writing of complaints made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service.
 - The procedure to ensure that complaints is duly dealt with.

(3)(a)(b)

- The manager and the service policy detailed that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) includes:
- The nature of the complaint and the way the complaint was dealt with, and how the record will be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

(4) The service policy specifies that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) is retained for a period of two years from the date on which the complaint has been dealt with.