

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY087
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Name of Service:	Fairyhouse Creche & Daycare Centre
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Address of Service:	Moyvilla, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 YE63
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary O'Neill
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Service type:	Full Day
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Dates of Inspection:	09/02/2024
	12/02/2024

No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	88	PM	69
No of pre-school children: Day 2	AM	75	PM	72

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.
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Heagney & A. Kennedy
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	22 nd May 2024 Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016
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The Registered Provider are required to comply with the following conditions:

- The registered provider must not employ any staff to work directly with pre-school children without first ensuring the person has the prescribed qualification of 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.
- The registered provider must ensure that all staff currently employed and who are working directly with the pre-school children have the prescribed qualification of 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.

These conditions are in place for 4 months.

Description of service

This rural pre-school service is on its own grounds, near the village of Clarinbridge, Co. Galway. This privately operated service offers a full day care and part time care provision from 7.15hrs to 18.00hrs. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes are also offered. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 10 months to 6 years of age. The service also caters for school age children with a breakfast club and afterschool programme. A child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on Montessori and emerging interests is provided. The service is currently operating nine playrooms. The Junior Nursery 1, Junior Nursery 2, and Junior Nursery 3 are on the ground floor, of the main building. The Junior Playschool, and Playschool, are on the first floor of the main building. The Senior Nursery, and Montessori, are in prefabrication units behind the main building. The Den and the Cabin are in a modular building connected to the Senior Toddler room. On the days of inspection, the Cabin was solely used for school age children. The service has its own kitchen, where children's dinners are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is a designated sleep room adjacent to the Nursery, with twelve cots for younger children's sleep provision. Sleep mats are available for older children. In each playroom, quiet rest areas with child size seating and soft matting are available for children to rest or opt out of an activity, if they wish to do so. To the rear of the main building, there are four secure outdoor play areas for children's play, exploration, and fresh air.

Staffing

The registered provider is the person in charge and works on the premises on a daily basis. There are twenty-two staff, including the registered provider, working on the premises. Seventeen staff who were working directly with the children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education.

There were two staff who held auxiliary functions as chefs, drivers, maintenance, and general duties.

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.

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

Two conditions were applied to the registration of the service on 7th of June 2023 for a period of 9 months under Part III, Article (9) Child Care Act 1991 Early Years Regulations 2016 Child Care Act 1991 Early Years Regulations 2016.

On inspection on the 9th and 12 February 2024, there was evidence that one condition was complied with:

The registered provider ensured 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; (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and(c) these Regulations.

On inspection on the 9th and 12th February 2024, there was evidence that the second condition attached to the registration of this service were not complied with: Three staff, who were working directly with the children, did not hold one of the following:

- A minimum 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.
- An exemption from the qualification requirement and confirmation that the Minister accepts this exemption.
- The qualification requirement or relevant specialist training and the basis on which the capitation may be used for a person employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), detailed in an exemption letter from Pobal.
- The registered provider must ensure that all staff currently employed and who are working directly with the pre-school children have the prescribed qualification of 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.

On the 9th April 2024, a regulatory enforcement meeting was held with the registered provider to address the non-compliance and offer a final opportunity for the registered provider to demonstrate how these issues had or would be resolved.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the days 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.

(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.

(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;
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

(1)(a) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

- (b) On Day 1 of the inspection, the deputy person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived, and the registered provider arrived on the premises at 10.02hrs. On Day 2 of the inspection, the registered provider was on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived. Staff

rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available on the premises at all times when the pre-school children were present.

Twenty-two staff files were presented to the early years' inspectors.

- (2)(a)&(b) Forty-four of the forty-four written validated references, on file for the twenty-two staff, were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of twenty- two staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Seven of the staff had worked outside the jurisdiction, for six months or more, while over the age of 18 years of age, and had the required police vetting for that jurisdiction. It is acknowledged that where applicable these vetting's were translated by a reputable source. It was also noted one of these staff had lived in six locations outside the jurisdiction and had the required police vettings.
- (4) Seventeen staff who were working directly with children, held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of qualifications were on file for the seventeen staff.
- (7)(a)(b)(c)The registered provider ensured that all employees, unpaid workers, and contractors were appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation the policies, procedures and statements of the service and the Regulations. The registered provider showed evidence of a documented contract, job description and appraisal system for each staff member. The registered provider showed evidence of the staff supervision policy being implemented and these staff knew their requirements, roles, and responsibilities.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) On the days of inspection, three staff, who were working directly with the children, did not hold one of the following:
- A minimum 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.

- An exemption from the qualification requirement and confirmation that the Minister accepts this exemption.
- The qualification requirement or relevant specialist training and the basis on which the capitation may be used for a person employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), detailed in an exemption letter from Pobal.

On the days of inspection, and from reviewing the daily attendance books the early years inspectors observed that these three staff were part of the daily staff compliment and acted as childcare relief for absences, meal/ break times and substitutions.

It is acknowledged that these three staff, showed evidence of having completed component modules in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 22nd of March 2024, the registered provider advised of the following;

Corrective and Preventive Action

Staff member 1

Is currently completing a certificate in Early Years and Care, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5. This staff member acts as childcare relief for absences and lunch cover. This staff member does not work alone with children and supervised at all times.

Staff member 2

Is currently completing Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 certificate in Early Learning and Care. This staff member acts as childcare relief for absences and lunch cover. This staff member does not work alone with children and supervised at all times.

Staff member 3

Has completed one component of Early Childhood Education and Play Level 5. She will begin Level 6 in September 2024. This staff member covers lunch for 1 hour each day in Montessori. She does not work alone with the children and is supervised at all times. She primarily works in our afterschool service.

The service strives to employ staff who are appropriately qualified. The service will continue to actively recruit individuals with the appropriate qualifications. The service will continue to offer and fund training programmes to staff members. The service provider is committed to furthering staff education.

Supporting documentation submitted

Modules or component evidence was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance identified under point (4) remains outstanding, the three staff did not hold at least a major award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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

- (1) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (2) On the morning of Day 1 of the inspection, there were 88 children present.
 - 5 children were aged 10 months to 1 year,
 - 13 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
 - 21 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
 - 49 children were aged between 3 to 6 years.

There were sixteen staff directly caring for these children. In the morning, the registered provider assisted with the administration aspect of the inspection and the service chef was preparing, cooking, and serving the main meal.

From 12.00hrs to 15.00hrs, a staff member assisted with childcare relief and staff break cover.

In the afternoon, of Day 1 of the inspection, there were 69 children present.

- 5 children were aged between 10 months to 1 year,
- 13 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 19 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 16 children were aged between 3 to 6 years.

There were thirteen staff, directly caring for and supervising these children. An additional staff member commenced from 12.00hrs. The registered provider assisted with the administration aspect of the inspection.

Additionally, the service driver was collecting school aged children.

In the afternoon, from 14.30hrs to 18.00hrs, there was a school aged programme with nine children and one staff member designated to their care.

On the morning of Day 2 of the inspection, there were 75 children present.

- 4 children were aged 10 months to 1 year,
- 13 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 21 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 37 children were aged between 3 to 6 years.

There were fourteen staff directly caring for these children. There was an additional staff member from 10.00hrs to 14.00hrs. In the morning, the registered provider and the service chef were working in the service. From 12.30hrs, an additional staff member commenced working in the service.

In the afternoon, of Day 2 of the inspection, there were 72 children present.

- 4 children were aged between 10 months to 1 year,
- 13 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 21 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 35 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were fourteen staff, directly caring for and supervising these children. From 12.00hrs, a staff member commenced working in the service. The registered provider assisted with the administration aspect of the inspection. Additionally, the service driver was collecting school aged children.

In the afternoon, from 14.30hrs, there was a school aged programme with nine children and one adult in the Cabin.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

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.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

(5) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)&(i)

Twenty-five children's records were sampled and reviewed by the early year's inspectors.

The twenty-five records reviewed showed that the entries were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The twenty-five children's records contained the following:-

- The name and date of birth of the child.
- The date in which the child first commenced in the service.
- The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).
- The name and address of the child's parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.
- Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.
- Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.
- The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
- A record of any immunisations the child has had.
- Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was / is an emergency.

(4) &(5) The registered provider advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that all relevant children's records were kept for 2 years from the date a child stops attending the service.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;
- (e) the facilities available;
- (f) the opening hours and fees;
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
- (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

(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)&(k)

The service complied with their own recruitment policy, which specifies the procedure to be followed by the registered provider when hiring employees and unpaid workers, (including the steps to be taken to check and verify references, qualifications, and vetting documentation), prior to the employee commencing.

The following information in relation to the service was examined and found to be compliant -

- the name, position, qualifications and experience of the employees, unpaid workers and contractors;
- details of the adult: child ratios in the service;
- details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

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

The service statement of purpose and function was on display.

The following policies were inspected -

Complaints Policy	Policy on Authorisation to Collect Children
Policy on Administration of Medication	Supervision Policy
Policy on Infection Control	Staff Training Policy
Policy on Behaviour Management	Policy on Healthy Eating
Policy on Safe Sleep	Policy on Outdoor Play
Fire Safety Policy	Policy on Accidents and Incidents
Inclusion Policy	Policy on Outings
Policy on Staff Absences	Recruitment Policy
Risk Management Policy	Policy on Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices
Settling In Policy	

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

- Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack(s) and meal(s) without being rushed. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable for the children's ages and stage of development.
- The staff responded to children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to nappy changing and toileting and toilet training.
- On the day of the inspection, thirty-seven children from the Junior Nursery rooms 1, 2, & 3, Junior Playschool and Senior Nursery required nappy changing and were changed in a sensitive manner while having their dignity and privacy maintained.
- The older children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. Children were allowed to take their time during toileting. Staff encouraged and supported children to become more independent in toileting practices.

- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence, and to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.
- The service supported the children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with staff.

For example:

- assigning a key person to each child;
- showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust;
- being actively involved in children’s play, where appropriate (initiating games, joining in when invited to by children);
- behaving in a way that creates a positive atmosphere (having frequent social conversations, joint laughter and showing affection);
- listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children’s cues, gestures, and body language;
- encouraging children to think critically, ask questions and respond to them in a way that promotes sustained shared thinking; nurturing and comforting children;
- using soft tones, the child’s individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact.
- Visual aids (picture and word reminders) and instructions were displayed and used with the children to support their learning.
- The atmosphere in the learning environment was encouraging and unhurried.
- The children were supported to be confident about their identity and to have a strong sense of belonging, each day, while in the service.
- The service provided parents and guardians with daily information, including significant events or activities involving their child, for example, verbal communication at drop of and collection times, a social media interactive communication application, a bespoke childcare application, and via profile scrapbooks.
- The service had a designated childcare application with interactive communication with parents and guardians. There was section with photographs and a description of the child engaged in activities. Staff observations, a child’s milestones and individual learning stories were captured. The childcare application showed details of sleep provisions, meals, nappy changing / toileting, special activities, and a child’s likes, needs and preferences and general observations / comments. There were learning template and developmental checklists showing the child’s strengths, interests, and developmental care needs.

- Staff collated for each child a profile scrapbook my learning journal, showing the ‘child’s journey’ using observations and including samples of a child’s work.
- The themes to date included ‘all about me’, ‘Ralph the reindeer’ ‘our community’, Valentines Day arts and crafts, the Chinese New Year and the solar system.
- Staff adjusted the level of support provided to children depending on the child’s abilities, allowing for children’s partial participation and participation with support.
- On the days of inspection, the children were observed to free play, at story time, at circle time, at construction building, connecting, at sensory play, at pretend kitchen / house, and sorting stacking materials. The children painted, played games, puzzles, and insets. The children enjoyed playing with a selection of transport vehicles. They fed, and dressed baby dolls, played with small world furniture, little people, cuddly toys, and dolls. They enjoyed art and craft work including painting, playdough, and sensory play. On the days of inspection, in the outdoor areas, the children were observed running, chasing, sorting, and exploring.
- The staff listened to children in a caring, gentle way when they expressed emotions, and reassured them that it is normal to experience positive and negative emotions at times. The staff acknowledged and accepted children’s feelings (positive and negative) and the relationships between children’s actions and other’s responses. In all the playrooms, the children were given choice on what to do next.
- The staff were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them, and talking to the children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling, and commentating, extending a child’s activities and initiating games and activities. The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences.
- Staff responded to the younger children in a timely and appropriate way when they were crying or when becoming upset.
- Staff used positive strategies to support children’s inclusion. For example, the inspectors noted that the staff acknowledged a child’s engagement in an activity ‘that is great’ ‘well done’ and used questions such as ‘what should we do next?’, ‘is there any other way to do this?’, to allow children to critically think and explore.
- The staff supported children to enter social groups, and to learn to help and positively engage with other children. They encouraged and praised children for specific, positive, and appropriate behaviours. Children were given positive alternatives, rather than just being told ‘no’. Children were supported in preventing,

managing, and resolving conflict. Children could identify, name, and explore their feelings both positive and negative.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The service had a healthy eating policy.
- From 8.00hrs to 9.00hrs, the service provided breakfast cereal for any child who was hungry.
- At 10.00hrs, on Day 1 and Day 2 the children had their snacks provided from home and this consisted of a selection of fruits, savoury sandwiches, crackers, brown bread, rice cakes, custards, yogurts, fruit purees and cheese.
- From 11.35hrs to 12:15hrs, on Day 1 of the inspection, the children had tuna pasta bake with peas and sweetcorn and on Day 2 of the inspection, the children had savoury mince with peas, carrots and potato which were cooked on site, by the designated chef. Water was served with the main meal.
- At 14:30hrs, the children had afternoon snack provided by the parents. This consisted of a selection of fruits, savoury sandwiches, crackers, brown bread, rice cakes, custards, yogurts, fruit purees, and cheese.
- At 16:30hrs, the children were offered the opportunity for fruit pieces and toast or crackers.
- The meals and snacks were of appropriate textures for infants and toddlers.
- The children attending the service on a full day care and part time basis had two meals snacks. The children attending the full day care service had a hot meal provided by the service. The deputy person in charge advised that the staff ensured that each meal snack had two food groups. The deputy person in charge advised that there was a supply of food in the kitchen, for any child requiring additional food.
- A drinks shelf was available in each playroom to allow the children the opportunity to 'self-serve' their drinks.
- Perishable items from children's lunch boxes were stored in designated fridges.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Powdered infant formula for three children in the Junior Nursery 1 and two children in the Senior Toddler room, was not prepared in accordance with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) best practice guidance, which advises that powdered infant formula should be made up at home. Staff advised that

they made up bottles on site, as per parents preference. This non compliance was noted on the last inspection 1st and 2nd of February 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 22nd of March 2024, the registered provider advised of the following;

Corrective and Preventive Action

A letter was shared with the parents, stating that the Creche will no longer be able to make up bottles onsite. Bottles will need to be prepared at home. All incoming parents will be advised that we do not prepare bottles onsite. Parents will be directed to Food Safety Authority of Ireland best practice guidance for more information.

Supporting documentation submitted

The letter to parents dated 13th of February 2024 was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 22 has been adequately addressed.

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 main entrance doors were secure to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The external play area to the rear of the premises was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all the children attending the playrooms.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- The highchairs were fitted with appropriate safety harnesses.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trip or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.

- There was a system to thermostatically control the warm water, to facilitate children to safely hand wash.
- Blind cords were securely fastened thereby preventing any potential risk. Windows had restrictive access devices as a safety precaution.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- A documented risk assessment of the indoor and outdoor play areas was available for review.
- The staff clearly identified to the early year's inspectors, the drop off and collection procedures for children.

Infection Control:

- Staff involved in the serving of food and nappy changing used disposable aprons and gloves when nappy changing.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and in designated storage containers.
- The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled and stored within the nappy changing area.
- The four nappy changing areas had a leak-proof, sealable airtight container for the disposal of nappies.
- The nappy changing policy was displayed on the wall of the nappy changing areas and staff completed nappy changing sheet records for each child requiring nappy change, with a section for staff comment / remedial action taken.
- Children's soothers were sterilized using a steam sterilizer and the staff advised of the sterilisation procedure for mouthed toys.
- A cleaning and disinfection schedule was presented and available for inspection. There were cleaning schedules and records for the playrooms, communal areas, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas and on the cleaning and disinfection procedure undertaken in the service. The records reviewed showed that high contact areas were cleaned regularly during the day and the service was thoroughly cleaned each evening after it had closed.
- The outdoor play equipment was cleaned after each child's use, and prior to each child's use with documented records maintained.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray, the inspectors observed this practice on the days of inspection.
- The child size soft seating couches were intact with a wipeable surface.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.

- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playrooms.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Medicines examined were within date.
- Staff advised that the suncreams supplied by parents and guardians, and stored in the service, with dates of expiry checked on an annual basis.

Safe Sleep:

- There were twelve cots, in the designated sleep room, for children from the Junior Nursery room 1, Junior Nursery room 2 and Junior Nursery room 3 requiring sleep provision. On both days of inspection, children were observed sleeping on demand following signs of tiredness, in cots, with a sleep room temperature on Day 1 of the inspection of 18.4°C and on Day 2 of the inspection of 17.6°C.
- On the days of inspection, children from the Junior Nursery 3, Senior Toddler room, Junior Playschool room and Playschool room were observed sleeping on sleep mats in the Junior Nursery 3 and Junior Playschool room, supervised by an adult.
- Each child had designated linen stored in the sleep room or in storage boxes in their playrooms.
- A staff member physically checked sleeping children's, colour, position and breathing and the room temperature and this was reflected in the sleep record childcare application (app).
- The sleep policy detailed the correct temperature, lighting, ventilation, and child safety requirements.

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) Eleven staff working in the pre-school service had evidence of a current paediatric first aid qualification.
- (2)(a) Five suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position.
- (b) The first aid boxes were readily available, with content items within date.

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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill was dated 26th of January 2024.
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 13th of April 2023. Records indicated that the last maintenance for the fire detection system was dated 3rd of January 2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each playroom.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had insurance with an expiry date 27th of March 2024, which was for a full day care service for 120 children included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a)
- There were openable windows and doors in each playroom. There were openable windows and a door in one nappy changing sanitary accommodation, and mechanical vents and openable doors in two of the nappy changing sanitary areas.
 - Windows opening that were accessible to children were fitted with restrictive access devices and blind cords were secured by fasteners.
 - There were artificial tube lights and round lights fitted with shatter proof covers, in the playrooms.
 - The oil-fired heating system had a thermostatically controlled thermostat to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C.
 - On the days of inspection, the indoor playroom temperatures were maintained at between 18°C to 22°C.

- On Day 1 of the inspection, the warm water in the sanitary areas had a temperature reading of 40.8°C and on Day 2 of the inspection, the warm water in the sanitary areas had a temperature reading of 40.7°C. The deputy person in charge advised it would be no greater than 43°C.

(d)

- The play and work equipment was clean and in good repair.
- Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from and inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- From observation, the furnished playrooms were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

(e)

- Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.
- There were eight designated children's toilets with eight designated children's wash hand basins.
- There were three designated adult-only toilets with three designated wash hand basins.
- There were four designated nappy changing areas with four designated wash hand basins, one adjacent to the Senior Toddler room, two on the ground floor of the main building and one adjacent to the Junior Playschool room. There were four airtight sealable bins for the disposal of nappies. There was a supply of disposable aprons and gloves for staff involved in the nappy changing procedure.
- Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child.
- Foot operated pedaled lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas.

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) Adequate floor space was provided in the Den playroom, for the free movement of children to work, rest, learn, and play. The registered provider ensured that the minimum clear floor space was adhered to for pre-school children.

(2) The measurement of the Den, floor space was 30.27 square meters, thereby allowing a maximum of 20 children thus ensuring:

- a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service.

and

- a minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space, will be available for children aged 2 to 3 years, proposing to attend the part time / full day care service.
- a minimum of 2.3 square metres of clear floor space, will be available for children aged 3 to 6 years, proposing to attend the part time / full day care service.

A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are no more than 22 children are in a room in the service at any one time.