

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY090
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Name of Service:	Punchbowl Creche LTD T/A First Friends Creche
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Address of Service:	36 The Punchbowl, Ennis Road, Gort, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 F985
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Name of Registered Provider:	Michelle Talty
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	04/10/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM	18
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
Inspection undertaken by:	F.Kelly, J.Mayock.
Title:	Early Years Inspector.

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
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Description of service

This privately owned crèche was opened in 1998 and offers a full day care service from 7.30 to 6.00pm and a Monday to Friday. The service caters for children from 0 years to 6 years of age. This service is located in a residential housing estate on the outskirts of Gort town, Co Galway. The service has 4 playrooms (2 upstairs and 2 downstairs) and 3 dedicated sleep rooms for children that require sleep. The service also has a kitchen where meals and snacks were prepared. There are 2 secured play areas, one to the rear and one to the front of the building.

Staffing

There were 9 adults working in the premises, which included the registered provider

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.

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 23 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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.

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*

(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 who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there were 9 members of staff employed in the service .

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 17 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(b) There was 1 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than the previous last employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for the 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) All adults working directly with children have obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at 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 specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

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 day, there were 35 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning.

(2) At 10.00 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms was in operation.

-Wobblers/Toddlers there were 3 adults caring for 11 children aged between 12 months and 2.5 years of age.

Rainbow rooms there were 2 adults caring for 9 children aged over 2 years 8 months.

Ice cream Room, there were 3 adults caring for 15 children aged over 3 years of age.

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

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

- All of the children attending the service spent a large amount of time in the 2 different outdoor spaces throughout the inspection, when the inspectors arrived at the service all of the younger children were observed happily playing in the outdoor space that was located at the back of the service. The children were observed playing with equipment and toys in this area, and positively engaging with the staff and the rest of their peers. The children had direct access to their playroom.

- Meals and snacks served to the children on the day appeared healthy and appetising. Children appeared to be given enough time to eat and enjoy their snacks and meals without being rushed.
- Older children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet, staffs were observed responding to children's cues quickly and sensitively.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care, appropriate to their own level of independence. This was observed in the upstairs playroom where children were encouraged to put on their own coats and scarves prior to going outside to play.
- Children were supported to help manage and resolving conflict, this was observed on the day, when a staff member encouraged the children to find a solution to diffuse a situation that arose when children were standing in a line awaiting to go outside.
- The introduction of "Roxy the Dog" in the Ice cream playroom upstairs provided children to take the lead and make choices and decisions. Each week, a child gets the opportunity to bring the toy dog home, they documented all the activities that takes place and on Monday the child get the chance to speak in front of all their peer and tell their story.
- The service demonstrated that it listened to the children as their communicated their thoughts and ideas and this was especially evident in the playrooms upstairs when they got to decide what they wanted to call their playrooms. They then got to paint and draw pictures to decorate the rooms, e.g. rainbows and ice creams.

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 may pose a potential cross infection risk:

1. The 2 nappy changing mats were ripped on the edges and could not be effectively cleaned.
2. The nappy bins were not operating as foot pedalled when first inspected by the inspector but were fixed by the registered provider (the foot pedal lever was disconnected from the lid), when it was brought to their attention.
3. There were 2 cots that had mattresses that could not be effectively cleaned between uses or did not have waterproof covering or sheets that could be changed between different children using them.
4. On the day of inspection, there were 3 toilet brushes positioned adjacent to the children toilet bowls.

General Safety:

5. The fire exit door in the large sleep room had a key locked mechanism, which could result in the door not being freely opened, which could potentially pose a risk in the event of a fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The register provider stated the following:

Corrective & Preventive Action

1. Both nappy mats have been replaced.
2. Nappy bins are in working order.
3. Waterproof mattress covers have been purchased.
4. The toilet brushes have been removed from the children's toilets.
5. The fire exit lock has been installed with a thumb turn lock mechanism.

Supporting documentation submitted

Receipts of recently purchased items were submitted to the early years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted were reviewed. The non-compliances identified have been adequately addressed.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Non-Compliance Information

1. The sleep room temperature was recorded at 21.1°C at 11.30 am, this was in excess of the recommended room temperature of a sleep which is between 16°C and 20°C and may pose a risk to sleeping children.
2. The windows of the sleep room were not open and there was a stuffy type of odour in the sleep rooms, which indicated that the sleep rooms were not adequately ventilated and may pose a potential risk to the sleeping children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The register provider stated the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A new sleep room monitor with a room temperature sensor has been installed.
2. The windows of the sleep room are opened regularly to ensure the room is properly ventilated

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of a receipt for the room monitor was submitted on the 31/10/24.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted were reviewed. The non compliances identified under regulation 29 have been adequately addressed.