

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY125
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Name of Service:	Laura's Laugh 'N' Learn
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Address of Service:	Rosscahill, Rosscahill, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 DP9D
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Kinnevey
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Service type:	Full Day
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Dates of Inspection:	16/10/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	68	PM	43
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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.
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly, & F.Nic Dhonnacha
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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 private run service operates a full day care early years' service for children aged from 1 year to 6 years. The service operates from 7.30 am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. The service is also registered for school aged children.

It is a purpose-built childcare service in a Rosscahill, Co Galway. It comprises of 6 playrooms for pre-school children. It also has 3 dedicated sleep rooms and a staff room. It has an enclosed outdoor play area and a large grass area at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were 23 staff employed in the service, which included the service manager, chef ,a student on work placement in the morning and who works in the school aged service in the afternoon and the registered provider who work in the service on daily basis.

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. 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.

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 manager available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The registered provider and manager were on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Documentary evidence in the form of staff rotas indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy manager were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.
- The twenty-four adult files including the registered providers were reviewed.
- (2)(a)&(b) Forty eight written validated references on file, in respect of the twenty four staff, were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the twenty-four adults working in the service The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every three years.
- (d) Documentary evidence indicated that four of the staff had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years, and had the required police vetting.
- (4) Sixteen adults working directly with the children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 of inspection, there were 76 pre-school children, attending the service. There were 17 staff working on the premises on the day of inspection, which included the registered provider, the service manager, a staff member covering staff breaks a student over the age of 16 years and a chef.

(2) At 10.30 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

- Toddler room, there were 2 adults working with 12 children, aged between 1 year 9 months years and 2years 7 months years.
- Wobbler room, there were 2 adults working with 8 children, aged between 7 months and 16 months.
- Playgroup room, there were 2 adults working with 8 children, aged between 2 years and 3 years.
- Full time, ECCE playroom, there were 3 adults working with 21 children aged between 2 and 3 years of age.
- Part time ECCE playroom, there were 3 adults working with 19 children, aged between 3years and 4 years.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, 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 of the Infants & Children

- Children's toileting and nappy changing needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Self toileting was both supported and encouraged by adults depending on the child's age and stage of development.
- Parents provided the snack foods for their child and the service provides the main meal for children attending on a full day care basis.
- The children were given the opportunity to eat their meals in an unhurried manner, and self-feeding was encouraged by staff and help and support was offered when required.
- Children are provided with labelled individual spaces for their belongings e.g., individual coat hooks in each of the playrooms.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed during the inspection, the children were observed washing their hands when they returned from outdoor play and before their lunch..
- The children had an opportunity to move freely indoors and outdoors and the various outdoor areas/spaces was in constant use on the day of inspection. Each playroom had an area in which to play and on the day of inspection, children were observed playing and the outdoor area at the rear of the building and in the area in the courtyard area.
- There was a water station in the playroom for the children, where they could access drinking water throughout the session.
- There was a "snuffle corner" located adjacent to the hand washing sink and a mirror, where children had tissues and instructions on how they should wipe their noses.
- There were a range of soft seating in all of the playrooms, where the children could sit and relax and look at books or just talk.
- Children were observed using these areas in all of the playrooms throughout the inspection.

- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care, appropriate to their own level of independence. Children in the Toddler room were encouraged to get ready for bed; by taking off their shoes and their outer clothing, The staff encouraged the children to do it themselves and offered assistance and support when needed. The children were seen putting their belongings into individual bags hanging on hooks outside the sleep room .

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs

1. The interval between meals and snacks were served more than 3 hrs apart on the day of inspection. Children aged between 1 year and 9 months and 2 years 7 months in the Toddlers room were given a ham roll at 10.30 am, they were put down to sleep at 11.45am, they ate their main meal of turkey burgers, potatoes and vegetables after 2pm, when they got up from bed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

We have reviewed our mealtime to ensure that there no longer than 3 hrs between meals

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 14/11/2024, A letter to parents with information in relation to the revised mealtimes was submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted were reviewed. The non-compliance identified under regulation 19 have 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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The temperature of the water in the children's sanitary hand washing sink was recorded between 49. °c and 52.6°C and may pose a risk to the children using this area

Infection Control:

The following points may pose a risk of cross infection.

2. On the day inspection, a baby formula bottle was made up in the service, with hot water stored in a flask and powered baby formula that was brought in from the home. This is not in line with the Food safety Authority of Ireland's Guidance Note no 22 and may pose a risk to the safety of the children.
3. There was no running hot water in the hand washing sink in the nappy changing area in the children's sanitary area for effective hand washing.
4. Perishable food items in the children's lunches were not stored in a fridge.
5. The staff toilet was used as a storage area for cleaning products and cleaning equipment.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following:

Corrective & Preventive Action

1. The thermostat has been adjusted to ensure the water temp remains less than 43°C.
2. The parents received a letter in relation to baby bottle preparations
3. The hand washing sink in the changing area has been fixed.
4. A fridge is in place for the storage of perishable food.
5. The staff rom is no longer used as a storage room.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 14/11/2024, Evidence in the form of photographs and receipts were submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted were reviewed. The non-compliance identified under regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

1. The mechanical air vent in the nappy changing area near the Toddler room was not clean, it was dirty and dusty.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The air vents are included in the cleaning schedule and are cleaned regularly.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 14/11/2024, a photographs of a clean air vent was submitted to the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

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