

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY132		
Name of Service:	Little Angels Daycare		
Address of Service:	Costa Na Mara, Oranmore, Co. Galway.		
Eircode:	H91 T29V		
Name of Registered Providers:	Fiona Kelly , Helen O'Flynn		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	12/01/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	60	PM 56
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 Hospital, Co. 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

This private owned service was opened in 2005, in a housing development in the outskirts of village of Oranmore, Co. Galway. The service operating hours are 07.30 am to 06.00 pm, from Monday to Friday and the age range of children catered for is 0 to 6 years of age. The service caters for full day-care, part-time care, Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) and sessional pre-school care programmes. The service also offers an afterschool programme for school aged children.

This ground floor premises has a total of 4 playrooms, there are 2 designated sleep rooms, 1 opposite the Baby Caterpillar room for babies and 1 adjacent to the Bumblebees room for children aged 1 to 2 years of age. The service has a designated kitchen where food is prepared, cooked and stored on site. To the rear of the premises children have access to soft surface outdoor area with various interest areas.

Staffing

There was a total of 11 adults working in the service which includes the registered providers, manager and a chef.

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 and 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, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) One of the registered providers 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, a registered provider and the manager was on the premises.
- (2)(a) There were 23 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for adults working in the service.
- (b) There were 9 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent for the adults working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 16 adults working in the service.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 2 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) Eleven adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) Three adults working directly with the children, did not provide evidence that they had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The 3 adults have now been replaced by qualified adults to a level 5 and have been provided with induction and training.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has met the requirements.

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) Documentary evidence indicated that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children. 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) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 60 pre-school children present:

- 3 were aged 6 months to 1 year,
- 14 were aged 1 to 2 years.
- 14 were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 29 children were aged between 3 to 5 years of age.

In the afternoon, there were 56 pre-school children present:

- 3 were aged 6 months to 1 year,
- 14 were aged 1 to 2 years.
- 14 were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 25 children were aged between 3 to 5 years of age.

There were 11 staff directly caring for and supervising these pre-school children.

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

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

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

(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

19(1)(a) and (b)

BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. The children ate their snacks provided by their parents and guardians. Perishable items were stored in the playroom fridge prior to snack time. Snacks consisted of yogurts, cheese, fruit and sandwiches, with water to drink.
- The hot meal of the day was fish fingers, beans and the option of mashed potatoes or pasta.
- Crockery and plates were offered and used during children's snack times and were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.
- Children were given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack without being rushed. Adults sat with the children during snack and mealtimes and engaged with the children.
- Children's own bottles were available and accessible on a drinks table to allow children to self-serve when thirsty. The registered provider provided extra drinking water to any child wanting more and a water station was available in the corner of the playrooms.
- The adults supervised children's hand washing before and after snack time, after toileting, after blowing their noses and after messy play.
- The children were encouraged by the adults and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their level of independence, to develop self-help and pro-social behaviour. The adults guided and supported children who needed more help.
- The children who were toilet trained, toileted independently or with some assistance as required.
- Those children who were in nappies had their nappies changed in a timely manner by adults.

- The playrooms were laid out with visual cues and displays to support each child's individual needs. The service was found to be inclusive of all children attending the service.
- There was a quiet rest area with soft seating, in all of the playrooms for children to rest or opt out of an activity.
- All the children played outside during the inspection and were suitably dressed when playing in the outdoor environment.
- The children were engaged in a variety of activities which were both children and adult led.
- The outdoor play facilities were divided into 2 areas located at the rear of the pre-school premises where a variety of toys and equipment had been set up. These areas had an impact absorbing surface and artificial grass surface and were surrounded by secure gates and walls. There was also a sheltered area for children to use in inclement weather which was laid out with clearly defined interest areas. Children were observed playing in the outdoor at various times throughout the day.

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 and was available at all times to the children attending the preschool service. 2 staff had current training in first aid responder .

(2)(a) There was a first aid box available in the designated area, with items all safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped, with content items in date and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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) A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service.
- The last recorded fire drill was in 14/12/2023
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment with the annual certificate of maintenance dated December 2023.
- The smoke and fire detection alarms on the premises had the last annual certified service date of 11/09/2023.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had up to date insurance for 64 preschool children and was valid until the 27/03/2024.