

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY132		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Angels Daycare		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Costa Na Mara, Oranmore, Co. Galway.		
<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 T29V		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Fiona Kelly , Helen O' Flynn		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	23/05/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	63	PM 62
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S Meehan and F Kelly.		
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.
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### 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 06.30 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 interests.

### Staffing

There are a total of 16 adults working directly with preschool children in the service which includes the registered provider, manager and a chef. There was documentary evidence that adults have on-going training and education.

### 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. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15 and 19. 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, 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.*
- (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.*

### 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.
- It was confirmed that there were 16 members of staff employed in the service.
- These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) There were twenty-five written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for adults working in the service.
- (b) There were seven 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 4 adults working in the service that had not lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

- (4) Ten the adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework
- (7) The manager on the day confirmed to the inspectors, that all staff were given a copy of updated policies and procedures for the service to the staff members.  
Evidence of additional training that the staff attended (staff performance management induction training) was also available for inspection

### Non-Compliance Information

- (4) There were two adults working directly with children that could not provide evidence that they had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.  
It was acknowledged that the two staff were currently enrolled in childcare courses. One staff is currently due to complete their course in August 2023.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response that:

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

- (4) The two adults have now been moved to the school aged service until they both finish their course. In future only qualified adults will work directly with preschool children.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

No evidence was submitted.

### Summary Comment

On review of the response provided by the registered provider, it has been deemed that it has met the requirements of this part of the Regulations.

### 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) 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 63 pre-school children present:

- 3 were aged 6 months to 1 year,
- 13 were aged 1 to 2 years.
- 21 were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 26 children were aged between 3 to 5 years of age.

In the afternoon, there were 62 pre-school children present:

- 3 were aged 6 months to 1 year,
- 13 were aged 1 to 2 years.
- 21 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 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider developed, maintained and retained records about each child attending the service. A sample of the children’s records were reviewed by the inspectors, of the 60 children attending the service, a total of 15 records were reviewed , the records contained the elements (a, b, c, d ,e, f, g, h, i ) as outlined above.
- (4) All records were retained for the required period of 2 years from the date on which the child ceases to attends the service.

### 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

19(1)(a) and (b)

##### BASIC NEEDS:

- The healthy eating policy was available for parents and guardians to view the snacks and meals were appropriate and the foods observed on the day of inspection.
- The snacks were supplied by the parents were healthy and nutritious and consisted of sandwiches, crackers, cheese, fresh fruit pieces, yogurts with milk or water available to children when needed.
- The main hot meal of the day was chicken curry with rice and children were given extra portions by staff when requested by children.
- It was observed on the day that perishable items were stored in a fridge.
- 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 attending the service who were toilet trained, toileted independently or with some assistance or support by adults as required.
- Children who were in nappies had their nappies changed at appropriate times throughout the day. The adults were found to be caring in their interactions at nappy changing with children.
- The children self-care was assisted and encouraged by adults for e.g., to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after using a tissue and after messy play.
- In the playrooms the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couch in designated cosy area.
- 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.

- 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.

### **SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:**

- Following discussion with the staff in the service, the early years inspectors were informed that they provided daily information to parents and guardians at drop off and collection times, by phone calls, emails and via the service (app) application.
- Each child had a profile scrapbook showing some photographs of various activities engaged in, art and craftwork, themes and learning experiences. Additionally, children's artwork was gathered into individual folders and given to parents and guardians on a seasonal basis.
- The children were cared for in a kind and gentle manner. The staff were observed speaking to the children at their height, listening attentively and responding in a quiet, calm, and sensitive manner.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and encouragement. Children are shown positive strategies to manage their behaviour during the session.
- The staff were observed planning and engaging in appropriate activities and used daily routines to bond with the children, and provided cognitive stimulation through conversation, interaction and developing responsive relationships.
- The children were observed playing with blocks, puzzles, colouring, telling stories, tabletop activities, singing songs, and eating together.
- The staff were working on a transition programme with children preparing them for their new playrooms and those heading to school.
- Cultural diversity was discussed with children during the inspection where a staff member read a book, about we are all different but the same. Children engaged in a positive way discussing how many languages that are spoken in their home.
- All children engaged in outdoor activities including free play, group activities, playing with water, drawing with chalk, playing chasing games and playing on the seesaw.