

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015GY137

Name of Service: Little Einstein's

Address of Service: Corrandrum N.S.,
Corrandrum,
Claregalway,
Co. Galway.

Email Address: louisemadden1@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ms. Louise Madden

Type of Service Registered: **Sessional**

Date of Inspection: 0 2 0 6 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: **AM** 13

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 Hospital,
Galway.

Inspection undertaken by: S. Meehan
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	Little Einstein’s is a privately operated sessional service and is in Corrandrum national school on the main road between Claregalway and the town of Tuam county Galway. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care programme is offered Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 12.00 pm.
Premises	The pre-school service operates from a playroom in the primary school. A quiet rest area was available for the children in the playroom. The pre-school service has access to a designated outdoor play area to the side of the school.
Staffing	The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named deputy person in charge. There were 2 staff including the registered provider working and caring for the children in the service. These 2 staff hold 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. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.
Methodology	<p>Tusla’s Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.</p> <p>The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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 service manager was the designated person in charge of the service and a deputy person was also available.
 - (b) The staff roster indicated that the service manager and her deputy were on the premises.
 - (2)(a)(b) There were 2 written, validated references from past employers or from a source other than the previous past employer in respect of the 2 adults.
 - (c) Vetting disclosures from the Garda Síochána was available in respect of 2 adult.
 - (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another jurisdiction where a person had lived for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months was not required by the adult.
 - (4) The two adults who worked directly with the children in the service held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.
- A copy of each of the policies and procedures was available on the premises. Parents/guardians and staff confirmed in writing that they had read and accepted the policies and procedures.

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.
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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)—
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information:	<p>(1) The pre-school attendance records/roster book for the previous 3 weeks were reviewed and indicated that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.</p> <p>(3) The adult / child ratio was correct and maintained on the day of inspection. On the morning of the inspection, there were 13 pre-school children between 3 years and 6 years of age, with 2 staff working directly with and caring for the children.</p> <p>(8)(c) The registered provider does not operate the service single handed. There is designated deputy working in the pre-school service.</p>
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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:	<p>BASIC NEEDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The healthy eating policy was promoted within the service. • The children sat together and ate their snacks provided by their parents / guardians. The food observed was healthy and nutritious. Snacks consisted of a selection of sandwiches, brown bread, cheese, yogurts, and pieces of fruit. • In each playroom there was water on a drinks table for children to self-serve and access their sip bottles with drinks, throughout the session. • Crockery and plates were offered and used during the children's snack time. • Children were observed enjoying snack time under the supervision of the staff. The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their snack in a relaxed and unhurried environment.
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence. All children were toilet trained and either toileted independently or with some assistance from staff, when required.
- The children could move about freely in their playrooms.
- The outdoor play area to the side of the premises were sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service. The children had the opportunity to go outside for fresh air and play activities. Children were appropriately dressed while playing in the outdoor area.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The layout of the playrooms allowed the staff to supervise the children as they moved into the different interest areas.
- The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was readily accessible by the pre-school children. There was adult seating in the playroom to facilitate a staff member comforting a child.
- Appropriately child sized tables and chairs were provided in the playroom and the children had the option of both tabletop activities and floor play.
- The playroom was bright, spacious, and well laid out with a variety of defined interest areas to provide a range of challenging, diverse, creative, and enriching experiences for all children considering their ages and stages of development.
- Items included a kitchen / home corner, a library, arts/ crafts area, construction, transport area, playhouses, jigsaws, puzzles, cars, trucks, animals, and figurines.
- Displayed on the walls were visual aids and posters with themes including my family, farm animals, birthdays, emotions and curriculum planning.
- The children had the opportunity to play outside, there was a selection of play equipment, planting area, mud kitchen, blackboards with chalk and a ground surface of grass, tarmac and cement.

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 into the pre-school playroom were secured to prevent unauthorized access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- All cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach in each of the playrooms.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- Fire doors were unobstructed.
- The temperature of the playroom was recorded and maintained within the recommended room temperature of 18°C -22°C.
- There were storage areas inside the entrance of the playroom with individually labelled hooks for the children's coats and bags; thereby preventing a trip hazard.
- Parents and guardians had been advised of the service's updated drop off and collection policy.
- Daily documented risk assessments were carried out for the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all of children attending the playrooms.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- During the inspection, the children were assisted and encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after using a tissue, after playing outdoors and on entry/ exiting the pre-school service.
- A supply of tissues was readily available indoors and in the outdoor play area.
- There was a fridge in the playroom, for the storage of perishable items from the children's lunch boxes/ bags. Children's lunches were stored in wipeable sealed bags. Each child was offered age-appropriate plates and cutlery at snack time.
- Waste was disposed of in foot pedalled lidded bins in the playroom and in the sanitary areas and thereby inaccessible to the children.
- The registered provider informed the inspector that cleaning supplies, disinfectant, and hand sanitizers were monitored and replenished when required.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inspector was shown the daily cleaning schedules that detailed the cleaning and sterilising of toys, furniture, fixtures / fittings, and soft furnishings. <p>SAFE SLEEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was child size soft seating in the form of couches and matting in each playroom where a child could rest and relax. <p>FIRE SAFETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly fire drills were carried out.
Non-Compliance Information:	<p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <p>Thermostatically controlled warm water was not available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing. The temperature of the water was 16.8 °C.</p>
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<p>The registered provider responded on the 27 June 2022 to say that:</p> <p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>The hot water was turned off on the day due to a school outing and this has been rectified since the inspection.</p> <p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>The service will ensure that hot water is always available during the operation of the service.</p> <p><u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u></p> <p>No evidence submitted.</p>
Summary Comment	<p>The Early Years Inspector has reviewed the response made by the registered provider and has deemed that it has met the regulatory requirements of this part of the Regulations.</p>

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:	<p>(1) The service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid was always available to the children attending the pre-school service. One staff had current first aid for children module included in the training.</p> <p>(2)(a) There was first aid box, safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position on a shelf, in the playroom.</p> <p>(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.</p>
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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 fire fighting 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:	<p>(1)(a) Written records were available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was completed on the 19 May 2022.</p> <p>(b) Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual maintenance record dated 23 March 2021.</p> <p>(4) A notice was displayed within the and each playroom of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.</p>
Non-Compliance Information:	(1)(b) There was no documented evidence available of the last service date for the smoke and fire detection alarm system.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<p>The registered provider stated in her response on the 27 June 2022 that:</p> <p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> An engineer has serviced the smoke detectors and fire detection alarm system since the inspection.</p> <p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> The service will ensure that the smoke detectors and fire detection alarm system will be serviced in future.</p> <p><u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> A copy of the service was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.</p>
Summary Comment	The Early Years Inspector has reviewed the evidence submitted and has deemed it has met the requirements of this part of the regulations.