

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY145		
Name of Service:	Little Rascals Day Nursery & Montessori		
Address of Service:	Shangort Road, Knocknacarra, Co. Galway		
Eircode:	H91 H9T2		
Name of Registered Provider:	Colette Murphy		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	27/08/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM 31
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, Co. Galway.		
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan.		
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		

Description of service

The service offers the full day care from 08.00 am to 6 pm and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme from 9am to 12 pm, Monday to Friday. The service caters for children aged between 1 to 6 years of age. The preschool service is in a purpose-built crèche, located in Knocknacarra in the suburbs of Galway city. There were 6 playrooms in total the Caterpillar room, Bumble Bee room, Ladybird room, Montessori room, Butterflies room and the Rainbows room. Meals are stored, cooked and prepared on site in the service kitchen and a dining room was available for meals. There is an outdoor play area to the side of the service for children to play and explore.

Staffing

The registered provider is the person in charge and on the premises daily and there is a named designated deputy. There are a total of 11 adults currently working with the children on the premises 9 with a recognised childcare qualification at Level 5 and higher in Early Childhood Care and Education. There was also an administrator 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19,25, 26 and 28. 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.

Additional Information

- 28/08/2024 An Immediate Action Notice was issued under Regulation 25 First Aid (1), the registered provider did not ensure that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the preschool service
- 29/08/2024 The registered provider stated in her response that all staff will be trained in first aid and 2 staff will have first aid responder training on the 21/09/2024.
- 02/09/2024 A request for a further response was issued, following review of the proposed action to address the non-compliance. This response was requesting what action was taken to ensure a person trained in first aid was available to the children, at all times during the operation of the service until the staff had completed their refresher training.
- 03/09/2024 An adequate response was received by the registered provider in relation to the immediate action notice which stated that the registered provider had sourced two adults to provide cover for first aid until the staff had completed their training.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes 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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b) The registered provider who was the person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

Documentary evidence indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

All 11 adult files were reviewed:

(2)

(a)&(b) Eleven of the validated references on file in respect of the adults were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of the new 11 adults.

- (d) The 6 adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years had their translated police vetting on file.
- (4) The 9 adults working in the service had evidence of a childcare qualification to 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

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) The attendance records were reviewed by the early years inspector and indicated that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the pre-school children.
- (2) On the morning and afternoon of the inspection, there were 31 pre-school children present with 8 adults including the registered provider working directly with, caring, and supervising these children.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two staff were on the premises during the operating hours of the pre-school.

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

(19)(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service, nutritious meals and snacks were served at regular times, but there was flexibility.
- At 8 am children are offered cereals, porridge or toast. At 10 am children had a variety of fruit which was prepared in the service kitchen. At 12 pm the hot meal of the day was a chicken and mushroom pasta with cheese. Children had the opportunity for seconds if desired. Water was available in each playroom for children to self-serve. At 3 pm children had banana bread with milk.
- Appropriate crockery and plates were offered to children at meal times and children sat on age-appropriate chairs and tables.
- There was designated fridge for the safe storage of perishable food.
- A designated sleep room was available for children under 2 years of age and stackable beds / mats were available for children over 2 years of age.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement, inclusion and encouragement.
- The atmosphere in the play rooms was relaxed.
- Self-toileting was promoted for children and this was handled in a positive and sensitive manner by adults.
- Children wore a nappy and had their nappies changed in a timely manner in the nappy changing area.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- Children were observed washing their hands before snack times, after toileting and outdoor activities. Hand washing was both supported and encouraged by adults in line with best practice.
- Communication with parents was via a multimedia application, detailing each child's daily routine.
- Children were observed happily engaging with adults in the outdoor area, in the clearly defined interest areas and taking part in table top activities.

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

(2)(a) There was a first aid box with the content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position in the service entrance hall.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no adult with up to date first aid responder or paediatric first aid rostered or available to preschool children during the operation of the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider responded to say:

On the 29/08/2024 the registered provider responded to the immediate action notice to say that that all staff will be trained in first aid and 2 staff will have first aid responder. A response on the 03/09/2024 stated that 2 adults has been sourced to provide cover for first aid during the operational hours of the service until the staff had completed first aid training.

Corrective and Preventive Action

Eight adults have now been trained in paediatric first aid and two adults with first aid responder. In future the registered provider will ensure that first aid training is conducted prior to the expiry date and that children have access to an adult with first aid responder.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 29/08/2024 the registered provider submitted documented evidence by means of an invoice to the Early Years Inspectorate.

On the 03/10/2024 the registered provider submitted photographic evidence Of 10 adults who had in date first aid training.

Summary Comment

The photographic evidence submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate was reviewed and has been deemed to have met the regulatory requirements of this part of the regulations.

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 record in writing was kept and maintained in the service of the monthly fire drills. The last monthly fire drill was dated 28/07/2024.
- (b) A record was maintained of the smoke and fire detection system with the last annual service dated the 09/02/2024. The annual record presented of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment was dated 09/02/2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed throughout the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service's insurance specifying the address of the service, catering for a full day care service for 46 children at any one time, with an expiry date of 27th of March 2025, was available.