

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY146		
Name of Service:	Little Red Hen Creche		
Address of Service:	8 Shantalla Road, Ragoon, Co. Galway.		
Eircode:	H91 E1C9		
Name of Registered Provider:	Katie Savage		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	16/07/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM 27
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, 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 is in an area known as Shantalla which is an urban area of Galway city. This is a full day care early year's service for children aged from 1 year of age to 6 years. The service operates from 8 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday. The service offers a sessional service from 9 am to 12 pm. There are 5 playrooms, 1 dedicated sleep room and a kitchen area. There is an outdoor play area located in the courtyard of the premises where the children have access to outdoor equipment. Private parking is provided at the front and rear of the service

Staffing

There are 14 adults working directly with children which includes 2 kitchen staff, 2 school aged staff and the registered provider.

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, and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. 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 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) The registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise.
- (b) The registered provider was the person in charge and was on the premises and on site for the duration of the inspection.
- Staff rosters indicated that the designated person or deputy were available on the premises when the pre-school children were present.
- All 14 adult files were reviewed which included 9 adults directly working with children, 2 school aged adults, 2 kitchen staff and the registered provider.
- (2)(a)(b) Twenty- eight of the validated references on file in respect of the 14 adults were from past employers or a source other than a previous employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 14 adults. All garda vetting documentation was dated within the last 3 years as per the regulatory notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
- (d) Police vetting disclosures were required and available for 4 adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) Copies of Child Care Qualifications were available on file for the 12 adults with childcare interest and expertise working directly with and care for the children.

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 registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children were maintained.
- (2) On the morning of the inspection, there were 27 preschool children with 9 adults working directly caring and supervising them.
- 6 children were aged between 1 and 2 years,
 - 8 children were aged between 2 and 3 years,
 - 13 children were aged between 3 and 5 years.

In the afternoon, there were 27 preschool children with 9 adults working directly caring and supervising them.

- 6 children were aged between 1 and 2 years,
- 8 children were aged between 2 and 3 years,
- 13 children were aged between 3 and 5 years.

- (8)(a) The service is a registered as a full day care service. Documentary evidence indicated that at least 2 adults were on the premises when 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

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 9:30 children had a fruit salad which was prepared in the service kitchen. The hot meal of the day was roast chicken and mixed vegetables for dinner. Children had the opportunity for seconds if desired. Water was available in each playroom for children to self-serve. At 3 pm children had hummus and bread sticks.
- 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.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults. Individual education care plans were available if required, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement, inclusion and encouragement.
- Self-toileting programmes were developed for children and this was handled in a positive and sensitive manner by adults.
- Seven 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.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The adults were observed to be emotionally available, caring, enthusiastic and attentive in all their interactions with the children.

- A key worker system provided opportunities for the children to form and sustain secure relationships with the adults who were caring for them in the setting.
- Adults interacted warmly with the children, listening carefully to their stories and questions, responding to them with interest and providing regular praise and encouragement throughout the day.
- Transitions were well planned and provided children with a relaxed, happy environment throughout the day.
- Communication with parents was at drop off and collection, by email, phone or via the service multimedia application.
- There was a consistent staff team working directly with the children which allowed for children to form secure relationships.
- Each child received appropriate support to enable them to positively interact with other children through small and large group activities.
- Children were actively involved in both themes of the week which was baking and under the sea.

Non-Compliance Information

(19)(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS

- The dignity of the child was not respected in the sanitary facilities in the sessional building. Although the toilets were partitioned off doors were not fitted on the 2 toilet cubicles.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider responded on the 12/08/2024 to say that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

A contracted builders is employed to change the sanitary area. One toilet will be removed to ensure the dignity of the child is always respected.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the invoice quote from the contractor was submitted as evidence to the Early Years Inspectorate which will be carried out in September or October.

Summary Comment

It is acknowledged that the work is scheduled to take place, but the Early Years Inspector has deemed that the non-compliance remains outstanding until works are completed.

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) There was a person trained in first aid responder on the roster during the operation of the service. Five adults were trained in first aid responder and 3 adults in paediatric first aid.
- (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 office.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school 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 50 children at any one time, with an expiry date of 27th of March 2025, was available.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

1. In the children's sanitary area in the sessional building there was 2 toilets and 1 wash hand basin. A second wash hand basin was required.
2. There were 12 adults in attendance on the day with 1 adult toilet and wash hand basin. The ratio is 1 toilet and wash hand basin for every 8 adults.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider responded on the 12/08/2024 to say that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. One toilet is being removed so an additional hand basin is not required for this area. The front building has an additional children's toilet which will be used for ratio of children in the back building
2. An additional staff toilet that will include a hand basin will be installed downstairs in the front building.

Supporting documentation submitted

Summary Comment

It is acknowledged that the work is scheduled to take place, but the Early Years Inspector has deemed that the non-compliance remains outstanding until works are completed.