

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY159
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Name of Service:	Windfort Creche Ltd
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Address of Service:	Windfort, Headford, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 D524
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marian McDonagh
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	20
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, 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
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Description of service

The preschool service is located and attached to the registered providers home in a rural area called Windfort near the urban town of Headford, Co. Galway. The service offers the full day care from 7.30 am to 5.30 pm and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme from 9 am to 12 pm from Monday to Friday. The service caters for children aged between 0 to 6 years of age. There were 5 playrooms but only 4 in use now and 3 occupied on the day, meals are stored, cooked and prepared on site in the service kitchen. The pre-school children have access to secure outdoor play area to the rear of the premises for play activities.

Staffing

There were 8 adults employed in the service 5 directly working with children, a cleaner, school aged person 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/ 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 inspector wishes 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) 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 8 adult files were reviewed which included 5 adults directly working with children, cleaner, school aged adult and the registered provider.
- (2)(a)(b) Sixteen of the validated references on file in respect of the 8 adults were from past employers or a source other than a previous employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 8 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 was not required any of the adults as they had not lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) Five adults who were working directly with children, held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 and afternoon, there were 20 preschool children with 6 adults working directly caring and supervising them.
- 5 children were aged between 1 and 2 years,
 - 8 children were aged between 2 and 3 years,
 - 7 children were aged between 3 and 4 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

- The healthy eating policy and a 3-week menu was available for parents and guardians to view on request. The menu was on display in the entrance hall into the service. The food observed on the day of inspection was healthy and nutritious.
- At 10 am children had their snack made up of fruit, sandwiches and yogurts. The main hot meal of the day was prepared in the service kitchen and consisted of bacon, cabbage and a variety of vegetables.
- Water beakers and bottles were available for children to self-serve in the playrooms and in the outdoor play area.

- Age-appropriate crockery and plates were offered to children at meal and snack times.
- Seven children attending wore nappies and were changed on a regular individual basis and each child's dignity was preserved. The correct procedure at nappy changing in line with best practice was observed.
- Children who were toilet trained and either toileted independently or with some assistance by staff, when required.
- The service had sleep mats and a designated sleeproom with 4 cots and clean linen for children to rest during the day and there was evidence of 10 minute physical sleep checks carried out and recorded on children.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by staff, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and encouragement.
- All children spent most of the time on the day in the outdoor play area for fresh air and play activities.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- A key worker system was in place for each child; to support their development and to inform curriculum planning. The role of the key worker was also to liaise with parents and guardians.
- Communication with parents and the child's information was provided at collection times, via text messages, by phone calls, by email and by a multimedia application for interactive communication with parents and guardians.
- Adults were observed to work effectively as a team carrying out their daily tasks and communicating effectively for each activity.
- Transitions between activities for children were calm and smooth during the day, which in turn lead to a calm environment and relaxed children.
- Children were observed playing in the outdoor area, at table top activities, playing in the clearly defined interest areas and engaging with other children and adults.

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.
- (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 kitchen.
- (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 40 children at any one time, with an expiry date of 27th of March 2025, was available.