

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY204			
Name of Service:	Oakwood Creche Limited			
Address of Service:	9 Lower Newcastle, Newcastle, Co. Galway			
Eircode:	H91 U400			
Name of Registered Provider:	Orla Wynne			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time			
Date 1 of Inspection:	08/02/2024			
Date 2 of Inspection:	09/02/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	28
Day 2	AM	28	PM	No.
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway			
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly.			
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

This private operated service and offers a full day care and part time care provision from 08:00hrs to 18.00hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and Full Day care programmes are also offered. This childcare service premises is located in the Newcastle area in Galway city. The service has 5 playrooms, 1 dedicated sleep room and an-equipped outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider works on the premises on a daily basis. There were 10 adults working in the service on the day of inspection, which included the registered provider, resident cook and a student on work placement.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 11, and 19; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 9. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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, 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 was the designated person in charge and there was a named persons who were able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider and the manager were on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

It was confirmed that there were 10 members of staff working in the service, which included the registered provider, manager, kitchen staff and 1 student on work placement.

All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 14 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) There were 6 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 2 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 8 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police Vetting disclosure was not available for 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

It is acknowledged that the registered provider provided evidence that the staff member had made an application for police clearance to the country in which they resided for a period of over 6 months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider has stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member has sent an email to the embassy from which the staff member resided in for a period of time exceeding 6 months, enquiring as to the steps involved in obtaining a Police vetting certification.

In the future, proof of Police vetting documentation will be required at interview stage and before candidate commences employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 03/04/24, the registered provider provide evidence in the form of an email, that the staff member had sent, looking for instructions from an Embassy as to how they could obtain Police vetting.

Summary Comment

The regulation remains non-compliant as the police vetting remains outstanding; therefore, the regulatory requirement has not been achieved.

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)-

(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

(1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On the morning of first day of inspection, there were 29 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 28 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

On the morning of the 2nd day of inspection, there were 28 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning.

At 10.30 am on the first day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

(2) Beehive room(12 months to 18 months) there were 2 adults caring for 5 infants.

Rainbow room(2 year to 3 years) there was 1 adult caring for 4 children.

Butterfly room (3years plus), there was 1 adult caring for 8 children.

Caterpillar room 2 (3 years of age), there were 2 adults (1 student on placement)caring for 7 children.

Ladybird room(2 to 3 years), there was 1 adult caring for 5 children.

(8)(a) The staff roster of the service indicated that there were two adults on the premises at all times during the operational hours of 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

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the service collaborates with parents to support healthy eating within the service. Children ate their lunches and snacks in their playrooms. The service had a cook and the home cooked meals on the days of inspection appeared appetising and healthy. The dinner on the first day consisted of pasta bolognaise and on main meal on the 2nd day consisted of brown rice ,tuna and beans . The younger children were encouraged by the staff member to self-feed and the meals were enjoyed by the children and this was evidenced as a number of children asked the staff members for second helpings of the dinner.
- Older children could access the toilets on their own or they asked the staff member for assistance.
- The children had access to low level hand washing sinks in the children's sanitary areas so the children could wash their hands without adult assistance. Soap, paper towels and tissues were also available. This was observed on the day when children were seen going to the hand washing sink prior to mealtime .
- Soft seating was available in all of the playroom; children were observed using these areas after snacks times while were waiting for the rest of the children to finish lunch and on other occasions during the inspection. All of the areas were inviting and had activities suitable for the children to rest and relax.
- All of the children in the service got an opportunity to use the outdoor play area on several occasions throughout the inspection. The younger children including the non-walkers got an opportunity to use the covered sheltered play areas. All of children spent a large proportion of the day in the outdoor areas, which was suitably stocked with toys and resources.

- The children under 2 years of age were put down to sleep in the cot room, on the day of inspection 5 children were put down to sleep in standard cots in this room. A staff member physically checked the children every 10 minutes and recorded the temperature of the room, colour and position of the child as they slept.
- The children aged over 2 years slept on stackable beds in a playroom. This room had stackable beds , each child had an allocated bed with sheets and a small blanket. A .staff member stayed in the room with the children as they slept.

Supporting relationships :

- The atmosphere between the children and the adults was calm and unhurried throughout the inspection.
- Staff provided parents with the opportunity to share information about the children’s experiences , a daily record was sent home each day for all the younger children.
- Adults sat at the tables and on the floor with the children when helping with jigsaws and various other play activities. The level of interaction and positive engagement of the children were positive, the children were heard laughing, talking ,asking questions and generally having a good experience throughout the 2 days of inspection.