

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY221
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	SALI Childcare Service Ltd
-------------------------	----------------------------

Address of Service:	Mercy Primary School, St. Francis Street, Galway.
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	H91 RX32
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Myles McHugh
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date of Inspection:	06/07/2023
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	3	PM	3
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Nic Dhonnacha
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 premises is located in the centre of Galway city. This preschool service operates from the ground floor of a primary school, with 3 childcare rooms namely the ‘Inventor’s Preschool room 1’ and the ‘Explorer’s Preschool room 2’, in the main building, with the ‘Discoverer’s Preschool room 3’ located in an extension to the side of the main building. On the day of inspection one preschool room was in operation the Inventor’s Preschool room. The service offers a full day-care, part-time care service, an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme (9.30hrs to 12.30hrs) and sessional care programme. Additionally, a breakfast club, happy hour and afterschool programme is provided for school-aged children. The preschool caters for a maximum of 57 children at any one time, from Monday to Friday between 8:00hrs and 18.00hrs, for children aged between 2 years and 6 months and 6 years. Quiet rest areas are available in each of the childcare rooms for children to rest and relax or opt out of an activity if he/she choose to. Stackable beds are available to facilitate children requiring sleep provision. There is a designated kitchen where the meals and snacks for children are stored, prepared and re heated on site. The service has a designated chef. There is a designated outdoor play area for the preschool children with a sheltered play area, located to the rear of the building, for play activities, exploration and fresh air. The children also have access to an indoor sports hall. A play based preschool curriculum focusing on play and emerging interests is provided.

Staffing

The registered provider is not working in the service on a daily basis. There is a person in charge and a named person available to deputise when and if necessary. There are 13 staff working in the premises. Ten staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Additionally, there is a designated chef, and a maintenance person. The adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11,15,19,20,22,25,26 and 28.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 (Record of a Preschool Child)

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 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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 person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

(c) Staff rosters and documentary evidence indicated that there was a clear management structure in the service, that identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

- (2) All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (a)&(b) Twenty-four written validated references on file were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of twelve staff.
- (d) Police vetting was available for the three staff who lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 months while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) Ten staff held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of ongoing training and development were on file for these staff members.

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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (2) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.
- On the morning of the inspection, there were 3 pre-school children aged between 3 to 5 years attending the full day care service.
- Additionally, there was a school aged summer programme with 9 children aged between 5 years and 6 years of age.
- There were 5 childcare staff working directly with these children. Additionally, the person in charge assisted with the administration function of the inspection and provided childcare relief if and when required.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of nine enrolment forms for children that are currently attending were reviewed by the inspector. The details relating to (1) (a) to (j) were documented on each record.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

A copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations was available on the notice board and available for parents, guardians, employees, unpaid workers, contractors, and authorised persons.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

Basic Needs

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service.
- Nutritious meals and snacks were served at regular times, but there was flexibility.
- The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be independent.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet.

- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- No child wore a nappy on the day of inspection.
- All the children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors.

Supporting Relationships

The service supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by -

- Having a key person for each child
- By listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children's cues, gestures, and body language,
- Through encouraging children to think critically, ask questions and respond to them in a way that promotes sustained shared thinking,
- By using soft tones, the child's individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact, providing opportunities for small and large group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging,
- By providing opportunities for children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute to projects and tasks.
- Working with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child's interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.
- On speaking with staff, the inspector was informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child's experiences in the preschool including the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. This information was provided at collection times and via text messages, private phone applications, newsletters, by phone calls or emails. Each child had a scrap book which was also available showing various activities and themes that the children engaged in.
- The service used records to maintain details of the attendance, the curriculum, sleep provisions, meals, special activities, and a child's likes, needs, preferences, and general observations / comments. There was also evidence of staff observations, developing learning stories, medication administration, safe sleep records, and any potential risk / accident and incident records.
- Staff were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them, and talking to the children in a

variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling, and commentating, extending a child's activities and initiating games and activities.

- The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences, the children were observed reading stories, building blocks, making play dough and cutting shapes, at table top activities, imaginative play and eating together in the indoor playroom.
- The children were observed predominately in the sheltered all weather outdoor play area, riding on tricycles, climbing the activity centre and sliding down the slide, playing with hula hoops, throwing balls into the basketball net. The surrounding walls had feature paintings that made the area look like a forest meadow on one side and a jungle on the other.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-*

a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The indoor play area space was designed and arranged to

- maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter,
- accommodate children individually, in small groups and in a large group,
- divide the space into areas that are supplied with materials organised in a way to support children's play and learning,
- give all children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.

The Playroom was well resourced for the ages and stages of the children attending the service.

- In the Inventor’s preschool playroom items included a costume area, a kitchen with pots, pans and utensils, a construction area, puzzles, links, connectors, tracks, stacking materials, jigsaws, and books. There were transport toys with cars and trucks. There were farm animals, dinosaurs, bugs, small animals, mirrors, white boards and soft toys. There was a shop with real world items and cash register. There were musical instruments, sensory shapes and a computer area. There was a creative area with paints, art, and craft materials.
- Displayed on the walls were a variety of posters, visual aids children’s artwork, themes, and schedules.

(1)(b)

- A rest and quiet area was provided in the playroom in the form of child size couches, cushions and matting to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to. The children attending the part time or full day care service had the use of stackable beds for rest and sleep provision.

(3)(a)

Outdoor play

- The equipment and materials available provided children with play, movement, and exploration opportunities that were exclusive to the outdoors.
- Fencing and walls prevented access to streets and other dangers, such as pits, and traffic hazards.
- The barriers did not prevent the children being in sight of relevant staff.
- The outdoor area was surrounded by featured walls, fencing, and covered with artificial grass, concrete and paths.

Items included balls, a climbing frame, a playhouse sea saws, an activity centre and slide set, a basketball hoop, tyres, musical chimes, balance beams, a wooden bench, a water basin with a hose, wobbly funny mirrors, a ball maze, a mounted turn table with rain sounds. Additionally, the children had supervised access to the roof top garden where the children had the opportunity to plant flowers, fruit trees and vegetables in planter boxes.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- There was a healthy eating policy to view on request.
- The person in charge advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by ongoing staff training, visual aids, and adherence to best practice guidelines.
- Nutritious meals and snacks were served at regular times, but there was flexibility.
- At 10.15hrs, the children had their snacks which included crackers, fruit pieces, strawberries, salami with cheese and water or milk to drink.
- At 13.00hrs, the children had chicken goujons, garlic cheese potatoes and sweetcorn which was cooked on site.
- Drinking water was available and accessible to children at all times throughout the day.
- There was a designated fridge for the safe storage of perishable foodstuffs from children's lunch boxes in the service kitchen if required.
- At 15.30hrs, the children had fruit with yogurt and water or milk to drink.
- At 17.00hrs, the children had beans on toast, fruit or crackers with milk or water to drink.

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) The service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Eight staff had current training in first aid for children.

(2)(a) There was a first aid cabinet with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position in the Inventor's preschool playroom. The person in charge advised there is a first aid box in each playroom kitchen and 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 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

- (1)(a) A record in writing of fire drills indicated that the last fire drill was conducted on the 22/06/2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that firefighting equipment was checked annually. The records for the smoke and fire detection alarm system were maintained annually in the service.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be conducted in the event of a fire was available on file and was displayed in the lobby and each playroom of 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 had adequate insurance with an expiry date of 27/03/2024, for a full day care service with 100 children.