

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY229
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Name of Service:	Sli Burca Childcare Ltd
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Address of Service:	19 Sli Burca, Ballymoneen Road, Knocknacarra, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 DTN3
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Name of Registered Provider:	Karen Sheridan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date 1 of Inspection:	15/12/2023
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Date 2 of Inspection:	18/12/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	No.
Day 2	AM	8	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 community pre-school service was established in 2007. It offers sessional day care service; Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.30pm. It can cater for a maximum of 22 children. It also offers a service for school aged children. The service is located in a purpose-built building in a residential housing estate in Knocknacarra, Galway city. The service consists of a large playroom, 2 children's sanitary areas and an enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are 3 adults working in the service, which includes the person in charge.

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 9,11,28 and 19,however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 33. 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,*
- © 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 provide was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the first day of inspection, the deputy person in charge was on the premises and was the designated person in charge during the inspection. On the 2nd day of inspection ,the registered provider was the designated person in charge.
- (2)(a) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the 4 adults working in the service.
- (b) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than the previous last employer for the 4 adults working in the service.
- © Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 4 staff working in the service.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was not required as the adult working in the service that had not lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) All adults working directly with children have obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 – Staffing levels

(a) 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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

© 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

Compliance Information

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

(3)

At 10 05 am on the 1st day of inspection, the following playroom was in operation.

Playroom 1, there were 3 adults working with 10 preschool children.

At 11.15 on the 2nd day of inspection, the following playroom was in operation.

Playroom 1 , there were 3 adults working with 8 preschool children.

(8)(c)

Not applicable, as this service is not a single-handedly operated.

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:

- Children were independent with their toileting needs; on occasion some children needed a reminder from staff. The sanitary area was conveniently located near the playroom and could be easily supervised by staff.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunchtime and after using the outdoor play area.
- Lunchtime was observed to be a social event, the children ate their snacks, in small groups at low level tables and chairs. The children ate their lunches from plates and could decide where they wanted to sit. The staff sat with the children speaking and interacting in a positive manner with the children and helped and assisted the children when required.
- Children were encouraged to take the lead and this was observed during snack time when one child task to hand out plates and the children's lunches.
- The children's drinks were available on a low-level table, so they had access to them at all times during the session.
- When the children had finished their lunches, they returned their lunch boxes to their bags and put their name tag on a poster which indicated that they had their lunches finished. They then moved to the library area and waited until all the children had finished their lunches.
- Children got the opportunity to move freely between the various activities during the period of the inspection, children were not forced to partake in the planned activities but were given the opportunity to observe and join in at their own pace. The children also got an opportunity to decide if they wanted to play in the indoor or the outdoor play areas during the session.
- The staff were observed to use positive approaches and praise when for speaking to the children, a staff member was observed dealing a minor disagreement between two children in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider provided evidence in the form of a certificate of insurance that the service was adequately insured.

Part IX – Inspection and Enforcement

Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.

Non-Compliance Information

On the first day of inspection, access to information required to assess compliance under Regulation 9 Management and Staffing was not available, as the person in charge did not have access to the staff files.

The inspector returned on the 2nd day of inspection, when the register provider was the person in charge, and provided the relevant information required to assess compliance under this regulation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The register provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

Information required under regulation 9, Management and staffing will be available for inspection at all times in the future.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement of this regulation has been achieved.