

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY254		
Name of Service:	Teddy Bears Lodge		
Address of Service:	61 Woodlands, Lackagh, Turloughmore, Co. Galway		
Eircode:	H65 Y838		
Name of Registered Provider:	Hazel Curran		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	27/09/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM 15

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, 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
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Description of service

This private service operates a full day care early years service for children aged from 12 months to 6 years. It is located in a residential housing estate in Lackagh village. The service operates from 8:00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday and can cater for a maximum of 46 children. The service consists of 3 playrooms, 1 of which is currently used as a sleep room for children over 2 years of age. There is also a dedicated sleep(cot) room and a kitchen/staff room. It also has a well-equipped outdoor play area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were 6 staff members working in the service. The registered provider was working in the service on the day of inspection.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child. 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 deputy manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the manager was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.
- It was confirmed that there were 6 members of staff employed in the service, which included the registered provider.
- All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) There were 11 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.
- (b) There was 1 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for the adult working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 6 staff working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every three years.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) There were 6 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.

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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the day, there were 19 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 15 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.
- (2) At 10.15 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.
- Toddler room (11 months to 24 months) there were 2 adults caring for 7 children.
- ECCE room there were 2 adults caring for 12 children.
- (8) 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.*

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

- Children ate their lunches and snacks in their playrooms. The morning snack consisted of fruit and crackers, dinner was chicken, potatoes and vegetables. The parents supply the snacks each day. The younger children were encouraged by the staff member to self-feed and the staff sat nearby and offered assistance when required. The children were not rushed and when they were finished, and they could move around the room and play and wait until all of the children were finished.
- Older children could access the toilets on their own or they asked the staff member for assistance. The staff responded to the children's cues and were heard reminding the children that they may need to use the toilet.
- The children had access to low level hand washing sinks in the children's sanitary areas and the children could wash their hands without adult assistance. Soap, paper towels and tissues were also available.
- Soft seating was available in the playrooms; children were observed using these areas during the inspection. Children in the ECCE room were observed sitting on the soft seating in the reading room on various occasion throughout the session.
- The children aged under the age of 2 years of age were put down to sleep in their dedicated cot room, which was adjacent to their playroom. On the day of inspection, a staff member recorded that they physically checked the children while they slept 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 at the rear of the building. This room had stackable beds, each child had an allocated bed with sheets and a small blanket. A staff member physically checked 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 the younger children, and this was done via a communication book.

- Staff working with the children were observed sitting on the floor with the young children playing and comforting them. The staff were also observed sitting with the children while they took part in tabletop activities.
- The children were made aware of routines and daily transitions, so they know what to expect by photographs of the activities on the wall.
- Transitions of children within the service (moving from one playroom to another) was made easier as the children were familiar with all of the staff members in the service, as they covered for each other during break times.