

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015GY277 | | |
| Name of Service: | Tots Paradise | | |
| Address of Service: | Montpellier, Athenry, Co. Galway. | | |
| Eircode: | H65 H702 | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Denise Rabbitte | | |
| Service type: | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 18/04/2023 | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 48 | PM 42 |
| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | TUSLA - Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway. | | |
| Inspection undertaken by: | H. Heagney & A. Kennedy | | |
| Title: | Early Years Inspectors | | |

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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not applicable |
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Description of service

This rural full day care service is based in the townland of Montpelier, near the town of Athenry, Co. Galway. The pre-school comprises of three indoor playrooms namely – Classroom 1 and Classroom 2, and Classroom 3, which are attached to the registered provider’s home. There is also a geo-pod and a designated space for an outdoor only Early Childhood Care and Education sessional service. There is a designated cabin to the rear of the premises for school aged children.

The service offers a full day care service from 7.00hrs to 18.00hrs and the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) pre-school care programme from 9.15hrs to 12.15hrs. The service caters for pre-school children aged between 2 to 6 years of age. Additionally, a breakfast club from 7.00hrs to 9.00hrs and an afterschool programme from 13.30hrs to 18.00hrs, is offered for school aged children. A play-based child centred curriculum focusing on the Montessori pedagogy is offered.

Quiet rest areas are provided in each of the playrooms and in the geo-pod, to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he/she chooses to. The service has stackable beds, providing the opportunity for children to sleep. The premises has its own kitchen. The pre-school children have access to outdoor play areas to the rear, and sides of the pre-school, for children’s physical play activities, exploration, and fresh air.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service. There is a person in charge and a named deputy person in charge. Eleven staff including the registered provider, hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. Additionally, there is an adult working in the kitchen preparing, cooking, and serving the main meal.

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, safety, and facilities. The inspections 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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,

(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 registered provider was on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available on the premises at all times when the pre-school children were present.
- Files for the twelve staff were reviewed.
- (2)(a)&(b) Twenty-two of the twenty-four written validated references, on file for the twelve staff, were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of eleven staff.
- (d) Four staff had worked outside the jurisdiction, for six months or more, while over the age of 18 years of age and had the required police vetting.
- (4) The eleven staff who were working directly with the children, held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 9, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of qualifications were on file for the eleven staff.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)&(b) Two written validated references were not on file in relation to one staff member.
- (c) One staff member working in the service, did not have Garda Vetting disclosure. It is acknowledged that this staff member did not work directly with the children.
- (d) Two of the twelve staff who had worked outside the jurisdiction, for longer than six consecutive months or more, while over the age of 18 years, and did not have the required police vetting disclosure.
- Proof of identification and employment history was not available for one staff member.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 10th of May and the 14th of August 2023, the registered provider advised of the following;

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2) (a)&(b) Two written references have been submitted to the early years inspectors.
- (c) The Garda vetting application is ongoing. The staff member had no direct contact with children in the creche.
 - (d) In respect of the two staff that lived outside the jurisdiction, police clearance for one staff member has been received and translated. Police vetting for the second staff member has been requested. Management will double check the employment histories when a person is applying for a job in case any applicant has lived abroad over the age of 18 years.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)(a)&(b) Two written validated references were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
- (c) Garda vetting dated 15th of May 2023, for the one staff member, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
 - (d) Translated police vetting for one staff member dated 22nd of April 2023, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
Police vetting dated 14th of August 2023, for the second staff member, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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

(2) At 10.00hrs, on the morning of the inspection, there were 48 children present.

- 4 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 44 children were aged between 3 to 6 years.

There were 8 staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, the registered provider, assisted as childcare relief and the administration parts of the inspection.

At 13.30hrs, in the afternoon, of the inspection, there were 42 children present.

- 4 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 38 children were aged between 3 to 6 years.

There were 5 staff, directly caring for and supervising these children.

Additionally, the registered provider was the service driver collecting pre-school and school aged children and acting as childcare relief.

In the afternoon, there was a school aged programme with six school collections /at varying times.

Throughout the afternoon, there were 52 school aged children attending the programme with 3 staff members designated to their care.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection, in the outdoor pre-school (Zone 1) from 13.20hrs to 15.02hrs, the adult child ratio was incorrect. The early years inspectors noted and the staff member advised that she cared for twelve children, aged 3 to 6 years of age. There was one staff member solely caring for twelve and then down to nine children, when the ratios required one staff member to care for every eight children, aged 3 to 6 years, attending a full day care service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 25th of April and the 12th of June 2023, the registered provider advised of the following;

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) Maintain staffing levels of 1:8 for FDC.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1) Evidence of class / staff rosters (from the childcare application) were submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 11 has been adequately addressed.

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.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

(5) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h) and (i)

A sample of twenty-five children's records were reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The twenty-five random children's records contained the following:

- The name and date of birth of the child.
- The date on which the child first attended the service.
- The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).
- The name and address of the child's parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.
- Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.

- Details were recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.
- The name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner.
- A record of any immunisations the child has had.
- Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was / is an emergency.

(4)&(5) The registered provider advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that all relevant children’s records were kept for 2 years from the date a child stops attending 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

- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be as independent, as possible.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children’s ages and stages of development.
- The older children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. The staff used the correct language surrounding toileting.
- Five children wore nappies and were changed on a regular basis. The privacy and dignity of each child at nappy changing was respected. Staff responded to children’s cues quickly. The children had their nappies checked regularly and in a sensitive caring way and in a timely manner by staff.
- The children were observed washing their hands before eating their morning snack / dinner and after nappy changing, after messy play and outdoor play. Hand washing was supervised by the staff.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax in a designated cosy area in each playroom and in the geo-pod.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.

Play activities and experiences were developmentally appropriate and suitably challenging. The children played predominantly outside and had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment. The children were observed at free play, playing house / kitchen, and at sand play. The children chatted about the organised morning visit of the three firemen, with their fire truck. Each child had the opportunity to use the fire hose. The children showed the inspectors drawings and artwork relating to the firemen / fire truck. The children discussed what the firemen wore and the importance of their job. The children were also observed stacking, drawing, at construction, shape sorting, connecting, and playing with animals / dinosaurs. In the outdoor area the children were observed building blocks, at sand play, playing in the mud kitchen, balancing on the bridge, chasing, running, and playing catch. The staff read stories and children questioned the characters and gave their views.

- The staff supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust,
 - 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, using soft tones, the child’s individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact,
 - providing opportunities for individual and small group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging,
 - 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.
- Parents/guardians signed a parental agreement form and received a parent handbook with the service ethos, daily routines, strategies for supporting the children and the updated policies, procedures, response plans.
- On speaking with the registered provider, the inspectors were informed that the staff verbally provided parents with daily information on their child’s experiences in the pre-school including the child’s likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. This information was provided at collection times and via text messages, by phone calls, and by email. The service also used a social media messaging / video application for interactive communication with parents and guardians.

- The service used a childcare application which allowed the staff to interactively communicate with parents and guardians on their child’s care needs and learning experiences. The childcare application captured a child’s attendance record, daily care needs such as food, medication, nappy changing and sleep provision. Learning and picture stories were collated showing the individual child’s likes, interests, and preferences. There were also photographs of children engaging in activities and children’s various art and craftwork.
- The 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.
- On the day of the inspection the staff showed kindness. They were thoughtful, supportive, and reassuring whilst caring for the children. They cared for children by being supportive while the children engaged in free play, role play, and creative play. A climate was fostered where the children knew their boundaries. The staff supported children to enter social groups, and to learn to help and positively engage with other children. They encouraged and praised children for specific, positive, and appropriate behaviours. Children were given positive alternatives, rather than just being told ‘no’. Children were supported in preventing, managing, and resolving conflict. Children could identify, name, and explore their feelings both positive and negative.

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.
- (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) 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 play materials and environment were changeable, flexible, and responsive to the emerging changing needs, preferences, and interests of the children. The staff encouraged children to interact and to engage with a range of materials, activities, and equipment in the environment, based on the child's choices, age and stage of development.

Classroom 1

Materials and items of interest included a selection of Montessori equipment including practical life and sensorial exercises. There were tabletop activities to include magnetic play materials, pins, connectors, nuts, bolts, straws, and selection of puzzles, insets, and jigsaws. There was a construction area with tools and building blocks. There was a transport area, with a selection of small world cars and trucks. There was a nature display with a selection of shells, hazelnuts, stones, acorns, and horse chestnuts. There were art and craft materials including sponges, glue, paints, stickers, brushes, art trays, containers, bowls, and paper.

Displayed on the walls were posters and visual aids with themes on the daily routine, a family tree, letters, the children's artwork and 'our curriculum'.

Classroom 2

Materials and items of interest included a home area with accessories, a selection of dolls, buggies and play items. There was a farm with a varied selection of animals, tractors, and farm machinery. There was a shelving unit with jigsaws, insets, and puzzles. There were ponies, plastic and wooden blocks, a train track with trains / engines, and a selection of books. There was a large dolls house with play accessories and a fire station / engine. There were dress-up outfits and accessories also provided.

There were art and craft materials including sponges, glue, paints, stickers, brushes, art trays containers, bowls, and paper.

Displayed on the walls were posters and visual aids with themes on numbers, the daily routine, a family tree, letters, a worry stone and 'our curriculum'. Photographic displays were also provided on places of interest in the local community including the local fire station, the library, the credit union, the local playground, and the post office.

Classroom 3

Materials and items of interest included a couch, a home area with a play kitchen and accessories. There were dolls and a book area with books of varying interests. There were construction and stacking materials, small world items to include animals, cars, and figurines. There were art and craft materials including sponges, glue, paints, stickers, brushes, art trays, pencils, markers, containers, bowls, and paper.

Displayed on the walls were posters and visual aids with themes on emotions, fire engines and my family. The children's artwork on butterflies and handprints were also on display.

Geo-pod

Materials and items of interest included a couch, connectors, pins, cards, shapes, puzzles, watering cans, games, a shop, little people, books, and insets. There was a wooden house with small world items. There were construction and stacking materials. There were animals, dinosaurs, and transport vehicles. There were art and craft materials including sponges, glue, paints, stickers, brushes, art trays, rolling pins, piping, containers, bowls, and paper. There were planters with gooseberries, cabbage, strawberries, carrots, and rhubarb plants.

Displayed on the walls were posters and visual aids with themes including wellbeing, firemen, postman, space, artwork, birthdays, our family tree, identity and belonging, and our favourite colour.

(1)(b)

Rest / quiet areas were provided in the playrooms / geo pod in the form of couches, cushions and matting to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chooses to. Additionally, there was a designated storage cupboard for stackable beds for younger children's sleep provision.

(3)(a)

Outdoor play areas

The equipment and materials available provided children with play, movement and exploration opportunities that were exclusive to the outdoors. The outdoor play areas were divided by fencing and gates.

The outdoor areas were covered with bark, matting, grass, concrete paths, artificial grass, gravel, and tarmacadam.

Zone 1

This was the location of the outdoor classroom. Materials and items of interest included an activity centre with swings, slide, and climbing frame. There was a flagpole. There was a wall mounted water interest area with eaves, wooden and plastic trays. There was a frame for musical instruments. There was a mud kitchen, and a combined picnic table with inset sand basins. There was an activity table with dolls and a dolls house. There were tyres, wooden pieces, boxes of toys, helmets, push cars, cones, bicycles, trucks, tables, and chairs. There were easels, goal posts and a planting area. There was a wooden 'siopa' and 'garda' station.

There was an all-weather sheltered area attached to the main building, with shelving, storage containers, coat racks, plants, musical chimes, and lights.

Zone 2

This outdoor area was to the rear of the premises and adjacent to the school age prefabrication unit. There was a large wooden 'man cave' in this area, that was inaccessible to the children. Materials and items included a large sand unit with buckets, transport vehicles, trucks, wooden pieces, and containers. There was a plastic playhouse, basketball hoop, swing tyres, a hut with tyres and tables, circle seatings, a boat, and a climbing frame. There was mushroom seating, a boat with a slide, a balancing bridge, footballs, cones, connectors, a weighing scales, and links. There was a mounted water activity unit, balancing beams, rockers, tables, trucks, climbing bars, see-saws, and picnic tables with seating. There was an activity centre with a slide, swings, climbing frame and a vantage area. There were mud kitchens, with wooden blocks, pots, pans, and containers. There was a mounted blackboard, plants, and an outdoor sink.

Zone 3

This area was to the side of the premises and utilised by the children from Classroom 1 and Classroom 3. Materials and items included a large sand unit, a selection of transport vehicles, trucks, a wooden playhouse, a large climbing frame with a climbing wall / slide. There was a balancing beam and an area provided for planting. There was an all-weather sheltered area attached to the main building, with shelving with a selection of plastic building blocks and toys. There were child sized tables and chairs to enable tabletop activities and allow the children to dine in the outdoor area.

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

- From 7.00hrs to 9.00hrs, the children had the opportunity to have a selection of cereals, toast, and milk.
- At 11.00hrs, the children had their snacks from home provided by parents and guardians which included cheese, ham, crackers, sandwiches, brown bread, fruit pieces and yogurts. There were designated fridges for the safe storage of perishable foodstuffs from children’s lunch boxes, for their snack times.
- The dinner was prepared, cooked, and stored on site by a designated chef in the service kitchen. At 13.30hrs, the main meal consisted of chicken curry, peas, sweetcorn, carrots, green beans, and rice. Older children from Classroom 2 and the outdoor pre-school ate together in the all-weather sheltered area. Two of these older children were offered the main meal and then had an alternative meal provided by parents and guardians. The children from Classroom 1 and Classroom 3 ate together in the all-weather sheltered area to the side of the premises adjacent to these classrooms.
- At 16.30hrs, the children had a selection of rice cakes, fruit pieces, bread sticks, cheese, and yogurts.
- Clean and safe drinking water at drinks stations / trays was available and accessible for the children.

Non-Compliance Information

1. On the day of inspection, in conflict with the Food and Nutrition guidelines for pre-school children, at 13:30hrs, six of the children from Classroom 1 and Classroom 3, attending the service on a full day care or part time care provision, did not have the main meal and were not offered an opportunity of an alternative meal. Staff advised that three of the six children were attending the service on a full day care provision (for over 5 hours or more) and ‘did not want to eat’ and three of the children were attending on a part time basis (between 3.5 to 5 hours) and ‘would eat at home’.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 24th of April and the 10th of May 2023, the registered provider advised of the following;

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Ensure all staff are aware of the need to offer one meal and one snack to part time children and two meals and two snacks to full time children. In the cases where children do not eat their dinner, we will keep it warm and offer it again at a later stage. We will also offer an alternative.

We will do a care plan in partnership with the parents of the children who have genuine food issues. These care plans will be available to the inspectors on their next visit.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. No evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 22 has been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The entrance doors into the pre-school were secure to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play areas were secure so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area or children could not exit unsupervised.
- The cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach.
- Leads and cables were securely fastened and thereby inaccessible to a child.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- There was shatter proof lighting on the ceilings in the corridors and playrooms.
- The doors into the kitchen and registered provider's home were secure and thereby inaccessible.
- The radiators in each playroom were thermostatically controlled to ensure a surface temperature less than 50°C, thereby preventing the risk of burning a pre-school child.

Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing.

- Hand dispensers were also widely available in the service dispensing hand sanitiser.
- Staff involved in the serving of food and nappy changing used disposable aprons and gloves when nappy changing.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and in designated storage containers.
- The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled / stored within the nappy changing area.
- The two nappy changing areas had a leak-proof, sealable airtight container for the disposal of nappies.
- Children's soothers were sterilized using a steam sterilizer.
- A cleaning and disinfection schedule was available for inspection. There were cleaning schedules and records for the playrooms, communal areas, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas on the cleaning and disinfection procedure undertaken within the service. The records reviewed showed that high contact areas were cleaned regularly during the day and the service was thoroughly cleaned each evening after the service had closed. The registered provider advised that additionally auxiliary staff cleaned the service at the weekends.
- The outdoor play equipment was cleaned after each child's use / prior to each child's use - with documented records maintained. A documented risk assessment of the outdoor play areas was also available for review.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray, the inspectors observed this practice on the day of inspection.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playrooms.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Medicines examined were within date.
- Staff advised suncreams / dates of expiry were checked on an annual basis.

Safe Sleep:

- Eleven stackable beds were available for children requiring sleep, if required.
- From 13:10hrs, four children were observed sleeping on stackable beds. Each child had designated linen. A staff member physically checked sleeping children's colour, position and breathing and the room temperature.

- The sleep policy detailed the correct temperature, lighting, ventilation, and child safety requirements.
- In each playroom and in the geo-pod, quiet rest areas with seating and soft matting were available for children to rest or opt out of an activity if he/ she wishes to do so.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There were safety risks in the outdoor play areas including -

In Zone 1

There was a circular all glass tabletop, with evidence of rust on the leg base and on the legs of the four surrounding chairs, on the grass area, beside the geo pod, that was accessible to the children.

In Zone 2

There was evidence of wood rot on the lattice panel fencing and decking base of the 'man cave', accessible to the children, posing a potential safety risk.

The surface of the mud kitchen was uneven with a wood section absent, that required repair.

There was evidence of a wooden box with the sides missing, requiring replacement.

There were exposed rusty metal hooks in the mud kitchen posing a risk of injury to a child.

There were two sections of exposed weed barrier, that were a tripping hazard as the bark mulch and or pebbles were limited / lacking.

In Zone 3

There were rusted bars in a storage shelving unit, in the all-weather sheltered area, requiring maintenance.

There was a cracked plastic climbing frame, posing a pincer risk.

There was evidence of wood rot on two sections of a wooden fence surrounding a playhouse, requiring replacement / repair.

There was evidence of a broken plastic storage box with sharp edges posing a pincer risk.

There was pink chair in the wooden playhouse that was frayed and torn, requiring repair.

There was a wooden stump, close to a planting area, that was a tripping hazard.

There was a section of the sand table that was absent, worn and required replacement.

There was a section of the climbing frame that was worn and showing evidence of rot, requiring repair.

There was evidence of a rough edge unpainted blue wooden storage holder, that required maintenance/ repair.

2. There were safety risks in Classroom 2 including -

There was a bin with evidence of rust, a build-up of dirt, and broken foot pedals requiring replacement.

There was a cracked storage box holding home accessories, posing a pincer risk.

There was a broken wooden fire engine which could pose risk of injury to a child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 24th of April, 10th of May and the 12th of June 2023, the registered provider advised of the following;

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1.

In Zone 1

The circular all glass tabletop and chairs have been removed.

Staff will complete an outdoor risk assessment every Friday to check the equipment and report anything that needs to be repaired to the Manager/Deputy Manager, so that repairs can be done over that weekend.

In Zone 2

The wood rot on the lattice panel fencing and decking base of the 'man cave', has been repaired/ replaced.

The surface of the mud kitchen has been repaired.

Any wooden boxes that were broken / slightly broken have been removed and replaced with new storage units / boxes.

The exposed rusty metal hooks have been removed from the mud kitchen.

The weed barrier is now sufficiently covered with bark mulch and or pebbles.

Staff will complete an outdoor risk assessment every Friday to check the equipment and report anything that needs to be repaired to the Manager/Deputy Manager, so that repairs can be done over that weekend.

In Zone 3

The rusted bars in a storage shelving unit, in the all-weather sheltered area, have been removed.

The cracked plastic climbing frame has been removed.

The two sections of a wooden fence surrounding the playhouse, have been replaced / repaired.

The broken plastic storage box with sharp edges has been removed and replaced.

The pink chair in the wooden playhouse, has been removed.

The wooden stump, close to a planting area, has been removed.

The section of the sand table that was absent, has been replaced and painted.

The section of the climbing frame that was worn and showing evidence of rot, has been repaired and painted.

The blue wooden storage holder has been removed.

Staff will complete an outdoor risk assessment every Friday to check the equipment and report anything that needs to be repaired to the Manager/Deputy Manager, so that repairs can be done over that weekend.

2. In Classroom 2

The bin was replaced.

The cracked storage box holding home accessories, was removed.

The broken wooden fire engine was removed.

Staff will complete a risk assessment every Friday to check the equipment and report anything that needs to be repaired to the Manager/Deputy Manager, so that repairs can be done over that weekend.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 25th of April, and the 10th of May 2023, the registered provider submitted the following to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate -

General Safety:

1. In Zone 1

Photographic evidence of Zone 1 outdoor play area.

In Zone 2

Photographic evidence of Zone 2 outdoor play area.

Photographic evidence of replaced lattice panel fencing and decking base of the 'man cave'.

Photographic evidence of the repaired mud kitchen.

Evidence of delivery of the bark mulch and pebbles for covering the weed barrier.

In Zone 3

Photographic evidence of the repaired section of the climbing frame.

Photographic evidence of two new lats fitted on the wooden fence, surrounding the wooden playhouse.

2. Evidence of risk assessments were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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. Seven staff had current training in first aid for children.
- (2)(a) There were three first aid boxes and a storage box with first aid dressings. First aid items were all safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped, with items in date 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 firefighting 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 written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last documented fire drill was dated 4th of April 2023.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment and the smoke and fire detection system with the last annual certificate dated 16th of December 2022.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

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 90 children at any one time, with an expiry date of 27th of March 2024, was available. The insurance covered:-

- public liability,
- personal accident,
- fire and theft,
- buildings,
- outings undertaken as part of the service provision.