

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY280
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Name of Service:	Treasure Island Creche: 2
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Address of Service:	An Fiodan, Coill Tire, Doughiska, Merlin Park, Co. Galway.
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Eircode:	H91 AV2D
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aideen Cruise
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	33
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan and J. Ryan.
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

The service is located in a residential development of Galway city in the urban setting of Doughiska, Co. Galway. The service offers full day care and part time care provision from 7.30am to 6pm and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme from 9am to 12pm.

There are 4 playrooms – the Baby room, Tweenie room, Playschool room and Montessori room. In each playroom, there is designated child size seating to allow the children to rest and have quiet time. There is also a designated sleep room with 7 cots for children under 2 years of age. Additionally, there are sleep mats available and used for children over 2 years of age requiring the opportunity to sleep. Food for children attending on a part time or full day care basis is cooked, prepared on site, in the service kitchen. To the rear of the premises, the pre-school children have access to secured outdoor play area with an impact absorbing surface for play activities.

Staffing

The registered provider was not on the premises, but a manager was appointed and in charge and a deputy person in charge. There are 11 adults working in the premises who hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework and a cleaner.

There is documentary evidence of on-going training and education for adults.

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 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.

Additional Information

This inspection was triggered by information received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*

- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise.
- (b) The registered provider was the person in charge and was on the premises and on site for the duration of the inspection.
- Staff rosters indicated that the designated person or deputy were available on the premises when the pre-school children were present.
- All 11 adult files were reviewed which included 9 adults directly working with children, the registered provider and the area manager.
- (2)(a)(b) Twenty-two of the validated references on file in respect of the 11 adults were from past employers or a source other than a previous employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 11 adults. All garda vetting documentation was dated within the last 3 years as per the regulatory notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
- (d) Police vetting disclosures were required and available for 7 adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) Copies of Child Care Qualifications were available on file for the 11 adults with childcare interest and expertise working directly with and care for the children.

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) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children were maintained.
- (2) On the morning of the inspection, there were 33 preschool children with 9 adults working directly caring and supervising them.
- 7 children were aged between 1 and 2 years,
 - 11 children were aged between 2 and 3 years,
 - 15 children were aged between 3 and 5 years.

In the afternoon, there were 33 preschool children with 9 adults working directly caring and supervising them.

- 7 children were aged between 1 and 2 years,
- 11 children were aged between 2 and 3 years,
- 15 children were aged between 3 and 5 years.

- (8)(a) The service is a registered as a full day care service. Documentary evidence indicated that at least 2 adults were on the premises when the pre-school was operating.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(16)(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(16)(k) A sample of 4 children’s accidents and incidents were reviewed. They were signed by the parent or guardian, which is in line with the service Accident & Incident Policy.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

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

(a) each child’s learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service, 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. At 10.15 am, the children had their snacks provided by the preschool which included fruit pieces and sandwiches.
- The hot meal of the day was sheppard’s pie and mixed vegetables for dinner. Children had the opportunity for seconds if desired. Water was available in each playroom for children to self-served.
- The theme of the week for the older children was baking and children made and baked their own pizza for the afternoon snack.
- Appropriate crockery and plates were offered to children at meal times and children sat on age-appropriate chairs and tables.
- There was designated fridge for the safe storage of perishable food.
- Children’s behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults. Individual education care plans were available if required, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement, inclusion and encouragement.

- Self toileting programmes were developed for children and this was handled in a positive and sensitive manner by adults. Adults were observed to be responsive to the children's cues for e.g at toileting, completing tasks, mealtimes and assisting with social integration with other children.
- Eleven children wore a nappy on the day of inspection and had their nappies changed in a timely manner in the nappy changing area.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- Children were observed washing their hands before snack times, after toileting and outdoor activities. Hand washing was both supported and encouraged by adults in line with best practise.
- The children who were all over 2 years of age could rest or relax in the cosy corner available in playrooms. Structured rest and down time were part of the daily routine.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The adults were observed to be emotionally available, caring, enthusiastic and attentive in all their interactions with the children.
- A key worker system provided opportunities for the children to form and sustain secure relationships with the adults who were caring for them in the setting. During observed interactions, the adults working with the children demonstrated that they knew the children well, recognising and valuing their individual interests, needs, development needs and learning interests.
- Adults interacted warmly with the children, listening carefully to their stories and questions, responding to them with interest and providing regular praise and encouragement throughout the day.
- The adults in each room appeared to work well as a team supported by daily informal discussions in each room and had meetings to plan the curriculum.
- Transitions were well planned and provided children with a relaxed, happy environment throughout the day.
- Communication with parents was at drop off and collection, by email, phone or via the service multimedia application.
- There was a consistent staff team working directly with the children which allowed for children to form secure relationships.
- Each child received appropriate support to enable them to positively interact with other children through small and large group activities.
- Children were actively involved in both themes of the week which was baking and under the sea.

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 door into the pre-school was secure to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play area was secured and had a key pad entrance to the service.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.

Infection Control:

- There was antibacterial liquid soap at the wash hand basins to facilitate hygienic hand washing. There were disposal paper towels in the dispensers in the sanitary areas used by the children to facilitate hygienic hand drying.
- There was one designated nappy changing area, adjacent to the Baby room.
- The inspector observed adults washing their hands and the child's hands after nappy changing in line with best practice guidelines.
- The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled, stored within a sealed container in the nappy changing areas.
- The service displayed evidence of suitable sterilisation practices for infant's soothers for children attending the baby room and Tweenie room.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposal paper towels and disinfectant spray, the inspector observed this practice on the day of inspection.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was clearly labelled and stored in the service fridge.

Safe Sleep:

- There was 1 designated sleep room with 7 cots for children younger than 2 years of age. Additionally, sleep mats were available for children over 2 years of age requiring sleep.

- Children were observed sleeping on demand throughout the period of inspection.
- Children under 2 years of age were observed sleeping as required during the day.
- There was a safe sleep policy that detailed temperature, lighting, ventilation, space between cots and child safety requirements as per the safe sleep for under 2's best practice guidelines for early years services.
- Documented records were available of each child's sleep, recording the time an adult physically checks a child, and the signature. Additionally, the records included a sleeping child's colour, position, breathing and the temperature of the sleep room with the opportunity to document any necessary remedial actions taken.
- It was observed that documentary evidence indicated that the adults physically checked sleeping children every 10 minutes.
- A thermometer was available in the sleep room and used as the method of recording the sleep room temperature and therefore taking remedial action when temperatures were above 20 °C and below 16 °C. The temperature recorded on the day was 19.3 °C.
- A supply of clean linen was available, dry, clean, and stored in a large secure cupboard. The linen was changed and washed.
- Rest and quiet areas were provided in each of the playrooms to facilitate a child to rest.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that all children were appropriately supervised, when attending the service. Children were supervised by qualified adults and the appropriate adult child ratio was maintained during the inspection. It was observed that adults conducted constant careful supervision by both sight and sound occurred to ensure children's safety. The adults were observed supervising children in the outdoor play areas, at toileting / nappy changing, in the playroom, at mealtimes and at sleep time on sleep beds and in the designated sleep room.