

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE014
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Name of Service:	Tigers Childcare
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Address of Service:	The Ryebriidge, Kilcock, Kilcock, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W23 XK51
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Name of Registered Provider:	Therese Noonan
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/08/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	66	PM	66
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W.
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan, F. Maher.
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	n/a
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Description of service

Tigers Childcare provides full day-care and sessional care to pre-school children aged 0 - 6 years of age. The service operates from 7:30am – 18:30 hours Monday to Friday. The service is based in a purpose-built building located in a housing development on the outskirts of Kilcock. There are eight care rooms, a kitchen, laundry and an office. The outdoor area is located at the sides, rear and front of the property.

Staffing

There were twenty-two adults present on the day of inspection, one of whom was the person in charge; twelve adults were working directly with the children and three adults were employed for school age care. The registered provider was not present for the inspection. Four adults provided support to designated care rooms when required. A kitchen assistant and cleaner were also employed.

All adults working directly with the children all held a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education on the national framework of qualifications.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

- Regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and Recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1),(2), (8)(a) - Staffing Levels.

- Regulation 25(1),(2)(a)(b) – First aid.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under:

- Regulation 16(1)(h), (i), (j), (k) – Record in relation to Pre-School Service.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.
- Regulation 27 - Supervision
- Regulation 29(c) - Premises

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the following rooms: Senior Discoverers, Junior Discoverers, Explorers 2 and Explorers 1.

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 manager, deputy 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

(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

The records of twenty-five staff members were reviewed.

(2)(a),(b) Two written and verified references from a past employer or in the absence of a past employer from a reputable source, were available in respect of each staff member whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for twenty-five employed staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was in place for eight adults employed who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) Twenty-one employed adults working directly with the children held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting was not in place for one adult employed who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) This colleague has applied for ICPC vetting for the time spent in the UK.

Supporting documentation submitted

Two documents – evidence of application and payment

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is not met for regulation 9 as the police vetting has not been received and vetted.

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) There were sixty-six children attending the service being supervised directly by twelve adults.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises throughout the inspection, this was confirmed on review of the staff roster.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis.

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent.

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

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following required:

(h) Details of children's attendance, including their arrival and departure times at the service in real time, were readily available.

(i) A staff roster was available detailing the start and finish times for all staff members.

(j) A sample of 10 electronic records documenting medication given to children was reviewed. Each record included all appropriate and relevant details.

(k) Records detailing accidents, injuries, and incidents involving children were readily available. A sample of 10 electronic records were reviewed, each record contained the appropriate and relevant details.

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 to the service was electronically controlled by staff members to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the care rooms. The outdoor areas were secured. The person in charge documented the inspectors' visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents and medicines. The management and staff members in the service completed daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments to promptly manage any risk identified.

Children were safely supervised and escorted on the stairs by two adults.

Infection Control:

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels in paper dispensers were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal operated bins were in place for the hygienic disposal of used paper towels.

Nappy change facilities were available for any child who was not fully toilet trained. A nappy changing step by step procedure was displayed in the sanitary areas to support nappy changing practices.

Written daily cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be clean and tidy.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. Medication was stored safely out of the reach of children.

The staff members were aware of the administration of medication policy and the practices to follow when administering medication.

Health care plans were available for children who required medication to be administered regularly while attending the service.

Safe Sleep:

There was a rest area in each of the care rooms for any child who wished to take a break from activities or rest.

Two sleep rooms with 20 cots were available for children aged under two years requiring sleep. Explorers 2 room was transitioned to accommodate children over 2 years requiring sleep for a period of the day. Sufficient low-level beds were available for any child in the service requiring sleep. Bed linen was stored in individual containers. The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance and practice. The environmental temperature of the cot rooms and care room when used for sleep was maintained between 16^o-20^o Celsius as there was an air conditioning unit available to control the environmental room temperature.

Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills had been carried out and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire exits were not obstructed.

Outing:

The service does not conduct outings.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Hand washing prior to commencing each nappy change was not included in the nappy change procedure. This step was not completed in the nappy changes that were observed which is not adequate for infection control purposes.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The nappy changing policy and the nappy changing task analysis was reviewed and updated. Colleagues are now following the steps to include washing their hands before nappy changes.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Two documents – Nappy changing policy and Nappy changing task analysis.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 23.

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) Persons were trained in in First Aid Response (FAR) for children and were immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in each care room.
 - (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children was available to the children attending the service.

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

Children were observed to be supervised in the care rooms inspected and in the outdoor areas. This also included during transitions from the care room to the outdoor area, transitions using the stairs to the first floor and in the sanitary areas on the ground and first floors.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Compliance Information

- (c)
- All care rooms were adequately lit by natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.
The environmental temperatures in all care rooms were maintained between 18° - 22° Celsius. Air conditioning units were used in sleep rooms to maintain the environmental temperatures.
There was adequate ventilation in the care rooms. The windows were opened to allow fresh air to circulate. Windows were open in sanitary areas to allow fresh air to circulate. Internal sanitary areas were ventilated by mechanical ventilation which was observed to be working.