

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE016
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Name of Service:	Young World
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Address of Service:	Kilmead, Athy, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	R14 H972
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Name of Registered Provider:	Bridie Corrigan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	09/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre Child and Family Agency Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38W
Inspection undertaken by:	F.Maher
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	N/A
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Description of service

Young World pre-school is located in a rural setting in the townland of Kilberry, Athy. The service operates from a purpose built extension to the private home of the registered provider and one large pre-school room with a small annexe is provided. A secured play area is located to the rear of the service.

Sessional care and education is provided to children from 2-6 years of age. Opening hours are from 9:00am-12:00pm and from 12:30pm-15:30pm for 38 weeks of the pre-school year.

Staffing

There were four staff members employed in the service including the registered provider. Four people were present in the service on the day of inspection, this included the registered provider, two further staff members working directly with pre-school children and one transition year student on work experience.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes 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, 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),(b)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

The records of four staff members employed and/or present in the service and one student were reviewed.

(2)(a),(b)

Ten written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of all adults employed in the service and one student.

(c)

Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all employed staff members.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

All members of staff employed and who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education 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.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)

There were twenty-one children attending the service being supervised directly by three staff members.

(3)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6.

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, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The pre-school room and annexe area were bright and spacious. The pre-school room was equipped with low level child sized tables and chairs to enable the children sit comfortably for snack and tabletop activities. There was a variety of age-appropriate toys and learning equipment available at an accessible height to facilitate a child-led learning environment.

The pre-school room had areas of interest including a home corner, dress up, mark making, small world, library and nature table. The room was well resourced with plenty of play and learning materials included puzzles, jigsaws, interconnecting manipulative equipment, paint, paper, art and craft materials, animals, blocks, cars, dolls and an assortment of props for the interest areas.

The outdoor play area was suitable and secure, it had part artificial grass surface and resourced with sand and water play, a covered area with tables and seating, a wooden teepee and a playhouse for imaginative play, a variety of ride on equipment and a geometric climbing frame for gross motor activities and a planting area where the children had planted seeds/flowers.

(b)

A large couch was in place in the pre-school room where children could sit and read or take some quiet time to rest and relax.

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 pre-school was secured and had a bell entry system; this was controlled by the staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. A wooden gate was in place between the entrance lobby and pre-school room and was secured on the outside with a bolt mechanism that could be accessed only by the adults; this ensured children were safe when the front door to the service was required to be opened by staff.

Staff members advised they observe the food provided for snack and immediately cut up any food items that may present a choking hazard.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted units, were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established and observed. In conversation with the children, they confirmed their handwashing routines to the inspector and understood the importance of 'removing germs'.

Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues, waste and paper towel.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection and during conversations with the staff members, they advised they were aware of the procedures to be followed to administer medicine safely to a child if required while attending the service. It was confirmed by the staff there was no child attending the service with a specific medical care need.

Fire Safety:

A fire drill took place during the inspection and the children were observed to be very familiar with the procedure as the children, who were in the outdoor play area at the time, immediately lined up and moved towards the side entrance in order to gather at the assembly point in the front garden. The staff members ensured all children were present and the roll books were available. All fire exits were easily identifiable and unobstructed.

Outing:

Outings do not take place from the service, this was confirmed by staff and the registered provider.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)
The registered ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained for the pre-school rooms.

(2)
Not applicable as this was not a drop in service.

(3) (a),(b)
The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.

(4)
The registered provider confirmed that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

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 with first aid responder (FAR) training were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a),(b)

The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in conspicuous positions in the pre-school rooms and were immediately available for the children at all times.

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 fire fighting 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 fire drills which were completed monthly in the service, the last recorded fire drill took place 9 November 2023 during the inspection.

(b)

A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment was last serviced November 2023 and the smoke/fire detection system was last serviced 9 November 2023.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in 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 being supervised by the staff caring for them at all times during the inspection, for example, when hand washing, using the toilet, playing indoors and outdoors, when carrying out an emergency evacuation from the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2024. The insurance provided cover for 22 children.