

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015KE051

Name of Service: Ali's Little Learners

Address of Service: 2 Gregg Court
Kilmeague
Naas
Co. Kildare
W91YY96

Email Address: alisonleeson@ymail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Alison Leeson

Type of Service Registered: **Sessional**

Date of Inspection: 1 0 1 2 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: **AM** 15 **PM** N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Child & Family Agency,
Suite 7
Vista Primary Care
Ballymore Eustace road
Naas, Co. Kildare

Inspection undertaken by: F. Maher
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
------------	---	--------

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

Description of Service	<p>This privately owned sessional service is located in a rural village setting. There were 15 children present on the day of inspection. A service is provided to children aged between 2-6 years of age and is open Monday to Friday from 09:15-12:15hrs and from 12:30-15:30hrs for 38 weeks of the year.</p> <p>Learning is facilitated through a play-based curriculum.</p>
Premises	<p>The service is located in an adapted commercial unit providing one pre-school room, small kitchen and sanitary accommodation.</p>
Staffing	<p>There were two adults present in the service including the registered provider. Both adults present and working directly with the pre-school children held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher, as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
Methodology	<p>Tusla’s Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. The scope of the inspection included the pre-school room.</p> <p>The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.</p> <p>The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

GOVERNANCE

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—
- (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.
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
 - (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
 - (c) these Regulations

Compliance Information:

A sampling process was used to review the records. No new staff were recruited since the last inspection, therefore Regulations (2)(c),(d) and (4) were not reviewed.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information:

The registered provider ensured that the required written policies, procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 were in place in the service.

The content of the following policies had been updated to meet Covid-19 requirements and obligations for a childcare setting:

- Risk Management Policy
- Infection Control Policy

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)—
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information:

(1),(2)The registered provider ensured that there was at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending and that a minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 were maintained as outlined in Table 1:

Table 1.

Room	Type of Service	Age Range in Years	Children Present	Adults Present	Minimum number of adults required
Pre-school Room	Sessional	2-6 years	15	2	2

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service is not operated single-handedly.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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:

(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS:

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service and parents provided the morning snack for their child. Plates were provided for snacks and the children were given plenty of time to eat, were not rushed. The staff members sat with the children during snack time which encouraged chat and conversation making it a pleasant and social experience.

The children were supported and supervised with hand washing and self-toileting as necessary by the adults.

All children enjoyed freedom of movement within the pre-school room.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

A key worker system was implemented in the service. Children were observed to be happy and content as they engaged in their self-directed play and tabletop activities. The staff members were very respectful towards the children in their care and children were praised and encouraged throughout the morning when engaging in and completing tasks/activities. The registered provider ensured each child's self esteem was nurtured by each child having the opportunity each day to be the leader/helper. The service engages with parents/guardians by text messaging, weekly newsletters and individual meetings can be arranged.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The pre-school room was equipped with child sized tables and chairs and low-level shelving and tables ensured the toys, materials and equipment were easily accessed by the children. Interest areas included a messy play area, home corner, dress up, nature table, rest area with library and the pre-school room had been decorated for Christmas. Materials and equipment included paint, playdough, crayons, paper, art and craft materials for cutting, gluing and sticking activities, water play, sand play, blocks, cars, train tracks, dolls, dolls house, books, animals and jigsaws. A range of materials and equipment facilitated activities to support the children's fine motor skills and learning including, pegboards, puzzles and buttons and spools for threading.

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.

<p>Compliance Information:</p>	<p>GENERAL SAFETY: The entrance door to the service was secure and controlled by staff to prevent any pre-school child from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.</p> <p>INFECTION CONTROL: There was an infection prevention and control policy available to inform practice and had been updated to reflect current practice guidelines in relation to Covid-19. The staff members were aware of the procedures to be followed in the event a staff member or child exhibited symptoms of Covid-19 and an identified isolation area was available if required and personal protective equipment was available. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and hygienically dispensed paper hand towel was available to support hygienic hand washing and drying. Children were observed to wash their hands regularly including before snack, after toileting and as needed. Separate toys were in place between each sessional service to reduce the risk of cross infection. Foot pedal operated bins were available for the hygienic disposal of used tissues and paper hand towel. The children were aware of and demonstrated the safe and correct sneeze and cough etiquette to reduce the transmission of respiratory infection. Records were maintained for any person entering the service to facilitate contact tracing in the event of an outbreak of corona virus infection.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION: The adults were familiar with the safe procedures in place to administer medication including temperature reducing medication to a child if the need arises.</p>
<p>Non-Compliance Information:</p>	<p>FIRE SAFETY: 1. The fire escape route from the kitchen was obstructed with the rack of dress up clothes, a small table and chairs and two large cardboard boxes of equipment; this had the potential to impede the safe evacuation of pre-school children in the event of an emergency occurring in the building.</p>
<p>Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider</p>	<p>CORRECTIVE ACTION: All materials that were obstructing the fire exit has been removed. PREVENTIVE ACTION: Ensure that the fire escape route is clear of any obstruction at all times. EVIDENCE SUBMITTED: Photograph of unobstructed fire exit from kitchen area.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The requirement for Regulation 23, Fire Safety, has been met.</p>

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:	<p>(1) A person trained in first aid for children was immediately available to the children attending the service.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) The first aid equipment was safely stored and in a conspicuous position in the pre-school room and was at all times available to the children attending the pre-school service.</p>
-------------------------	---

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

Non-Compliance Information:	<p>(1)(a) A record in writing was not available of all fire drills that took place in the premises.</p> <p>(b) There was no documentary evidence available to demonstrate that the smoke/fire alarm system and firefighting equipment had been recently maintained.</p> <p>(4) Notices were not displayed in the pre-school room detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.</p>
-----------------------------	--

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

Fire drill books were brought back to the premises.
Fire equipment specialists replaced the two fire extinguishers and fire blanket that are in the preschool.
Maintenance to be carried out for fire/smoke alarms weekending January 21st 2022.

PREVENTIVE ACTION:

Ensure that fire drill books are never removed from the school. Every month we practice a fire drill and it is recorded.
Ensure that the fire equipment is maintained yearly from a reputable registered company.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

	<u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED:</u> Copy of fire drills completed in the service dated October and November 2021. Copy of fire equipment replacement documentation dated January 7 th 2022. Photograph of fire engineer contact details booked for service.
Summary Comment:	Due to the time line for maintenance of the smoke/fire alarm system the requirement for Regulation 26 has not been met.