

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE076
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Name of Service:	Kinder Crescent
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Address of Service:	Chambers Park, Kilcock, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W23 KD37
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sharon Regan, Yvonne Regan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	29/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	22
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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, E. Mulhern.
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

Kinder Crescent provides full day-care and sessional care to pre-school children aged 1 - 6 years of age. The early years' service operates from 7:30am – 18:15 hours Monday to Friday. The service operates from a purpose-built premises located in a residential area on the outskirts of Kilcock. There are seven preschool rooms, one sleep room, three nappy changing areas, a kitchen, an office, a staff room and an outdoor play area located on the premises. Set down and parking facilities are available outside the premises.

Staffing

There were twelve adults present on the day of inspection including the registered provider and the person in charge. Of the twelve adults working, four were working directly with the preschool children, four were working with the school age children, one adult provided additional support to the care rooms and one adult was employed to freshly prepare food daily for the children in the service.

The registered provider arrived after the inspection commenced and remained for the duration of the inspection including the feedback meeting.

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, safety and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under:

- Regulation 29(b) - Premises

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the following rooms: Wobbler, Butterfly, and ECCE 3.

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, 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 20 staff members were reviewed.

(2)(a),(b) 40 written and verified references from a past employer or reputable source were available in respect of 20 staff members whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 20 employed staff members.

Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 20 adults, 13 of which were dated within the last three years. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was in place for 8 adults employed who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) Twelve 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.

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 twenty-two children attending the service being supervised directly by four 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 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 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. Both side gates were secured with sliding bolt mechanisms that were out of reach of the children. 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 before children arrived or used the outdoor play area to promptly manage any risk identified.

Infection Control:

Nappy changing procedures were observed for four nappy changes; the procedure was consistent with the nappy change policy for the service. Disposable gloves, plastic aprons, nappy sacks and foot pedal operated bins were available for hygienic practice. Staff members were observed washing their hands before and after the procedure and all the children's hands were washed before they were brought back to their pre-school rooms. The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Written 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. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored.

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. The Wobbler room was transitioned to accommodate children 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 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.

Outings:

The service does not conduct outings.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Garda vetting was available for seven staff members; however, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- Following the inspection we immediately applied for the garda vetting renewals that were not dated within the past three years. We have submitted renewal dates on our Outlook Calendar, this will issue us with a reminder 6 months in advance of a renewal. This timeframe provides us with ample time to apply & renew in advance of the three-year period.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Seven Garda vetting records.

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 VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(b) safe and secure,

Non-Compliance Information

(b) The service did not demonstrate safe and appropriate storage space for play equipment when it not in use as evidenced by the following observations:

- Stacked children's wooden chairs, play equipment, children's outdoor clothing and children's art work were stored in the sanitary areas attached to Wobbler, Butterfly and ECCE 3 rooms.
- Two hoovers were placed on the landing on the first floor in front of the two fire extinguishers.
- Two highchairs and two containers for messy play were stored on the corridor on the ground floor.
- Play equipment and furniture were stored in the stairwell on the ground floor.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(b)
All equipment was immediately removed from the lobby areas and sanitary areas and a new storage location for these items was assigned.

The hoovers were moved to a new location on the ground floor, clearing the space in front of the two fire extinguishers.

The highchairs were removed permanently as they were placed in the hall to be placed in storage as they were no longer needed. We now cater for 2years upwards, and highchairs are not currently required as the children that attend can independently use our small age-appropriate chairs.

The play equipment that was stored in the stairwell was new equipment that was delivered to equip a new class, this was removed immediately and has since been placed in the new class and is in use.

We have added the highlighted areas on our risk assessment forms to ensure that these areas are always kept clear of equipment.

Regular visual checks by management team to ensure areas are kept clear.

Supporting documentation submitted

(b) eight photographs and two documents.

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Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 29(b).