

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE094		
Name of Service:	Little Legends		
Address of Service:	2 Lipstown Manor, Naraghmore, Co. Kildare		
Eircode:	R14 CY90		
Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Alcock		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	11/12/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM N/A

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

Description of service

Little Legends pre-school is a private sessional childcare service located in a rural setting in the village of Naraghmore, Co. Kildare. The service operates from a purpose built premises to the rear of the private home of the registered provider. One pre-school room with sanitary accommodation is provided. A secure play area is located to the front of the service.

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

Staffing

There were three staff members employed and present in the service. The registered provider was not present and does not work directly with the children.

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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 including the registered provider were reviewed.

(2)(a),(b)

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

(c)

Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all employed staff members and the registered provider.

(d)

Police vetting was available for one staff member who 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 16 children attending the service being supervised directly by 3 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 19 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 was bright and constructively planned to engage all children present. It 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 construction area.

The room was well resourced with plenty of play and learning materials included puzzles, jigsaws, interconnecting manipulative equipment, paint, paper, playdough, 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 was part covered to provide shelter during inclement weather and was resourced with sand and water play, mud kitchen, slide, ride on equipment and area for digging.

(b)

Two child-sized armchairs were 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 main entrance gate to the pre-school was secured and had an intercom alert 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. Daily indoor room and outdoor risk assessments were completed and maintained to ensure safe play and work environments for the children.

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.

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, parental consent was required in the event any child required medication while attending the sessional service. It was confirmed by the person in charge there was one child attending the service with a specific medical care need, a care plan was in place.

Fire Safety:

All fire exits were easily identifiable and unobstructed, regular monthly fire drills were recorded.

Outing:

Outings do not take -place from the service, this was confirmed by the person in charge.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
The person in charge 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 room.
- (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.

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 box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position in the pre-school room and was 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 11 December 2023 prior to the inspector's arrival to the service.

(b)

A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises and were recently serviced 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

The children were observed being supervised at all times by the staff throughout the morning, this included during circle time, tabletop activities, for hand washing and snack time.

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.