

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE111
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Name of Service:	Whizz Kids Creche & Montessori
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Address of Service:	Ashbrook House, Togher Road, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W34 P205
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Name of Registered Provider:	Camella O' Sullivan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	23/01/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	26	PM	10
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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:	F. Maher and T. Duignan
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

Description of service

Whizz Kids Crèche and Montessori is located in the town of Monasterevin and operates from the ground floor of the registered provider's private home. Full day care, part time and sessional care and education is provided. The hours of operation are between 07:30am-18:00pm, Monday-Friday and the age range of children registered to attend is from 1-6 years old.

Two pre-school rooms are operational and there are two outdoor play areas to the front of the premises.

Staffing

There were seven adults, including the registered provider, present on the day of inspection, five of whom were working directly with the children. The registered provider was supernumerary and provided additional support and relief to the two care rooms when required on the day of inspection and the office administrator was also present in the office.

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.

Additional Information

On Inspection there was evidence that the following conditions attached to the registration of this service were complied with: Part V (22), Part VI (23) Child Care Act 1991 Early Years Regulations 2016.

These conditions require that the Registered Provider must :

- ensure that adequate, suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.
- 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.

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

(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)

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

(b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection

The records of two adults recruited and one workplace student since the last inspection May 2023 were reviewed.

(2)(a),(b)

Six written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of three records reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 3 adults whose records were reviewed.

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

(4)

One member of staff employed to work directly with the children whose record was 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 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 following written policy, specified in Schedule 5, was in place in the service; the content of was reviewed and deemed to meet regulatory requirement:

- Healthy eating 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)-

(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 26 children attending the service being supervised directly by 5 staff members during the inspection. The registered provider was also available to provide relief as required to the pre-school rooms throughout the day.

(2)

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

(8)(a)

There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the inspection, this was verified by the staff roster.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and parents provided the morning snack for their child. Foods observed provided included sandwiches with various healthy fillings, fresh fruit and vegetable pieces, crackers, cheese, brown bread and butter, pitta bread, fromage frais and yoghurts. Children had their own drinks of either water or fruit juice and fresh drinking water was freely available in the service. An outside catering company supplied the daily hot meal which was reheated on site before serving and a three week menu was in place. The weekly menu which is communicated to parents via a texting application every Friday. The main hot meal served was sweet and sour chicken with rice with the option of water or milk to drink. The staff members advised both inspectors that they are very aware of ensuring any large food items are immediately halved/cut to mitigate the risk of choking. Healthy eating is discussed on a regular basis with the children, particularly at snack/mealtimes as confirmed by the staff in each pre-school room. The registered provider advised all diets were catered for and the food provided by the catering company listed all allergens and nutritional content.

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 secured on the inspectors' arrival and was controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Once the children attending the ECCE sessional service arrive in the morning, the main entrance gate to the premises is secured, to further restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. Daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments are completed by staff and the outdoor risk assessment completed on the day of inspection dictated that the outdoor play area would not be used due to the adverse weather conditions the preceding day. The written risk assessments were reviewed and signed off on a weekly basis by the person in charge and any actions taken or required noted. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor/outdoor environments, toys and equipment and any hazardous cleaning items were inaccessible to the children.

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.

Gloves, plastic aprons, and nappy sacks were available for hygienic nappy changing practices. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues, nappies and paper towel.

Bed lined was laundered on the premises immediately after use as required.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for all 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 various 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.

Safe Sleep:

There was no child attending the service aged less than 2 years requiring sleep in a cot. Any child aged 2 years or older had the option of a period of sleep on a low level bed when attending on a part time or full time basis.

Fire Safety:

Regular monthly fire drills were carried out and records maintained. All fire exits were easily identifiable and unobstructed and staff members, in conversation with the inspectors were aware of the nearest fire exits and assembly point when evacuating the premises during an emergency.

Outing:

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

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 provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in real time for the pre-school rooms inspected.
- (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 trained in first aid responder (FAR) 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 each pre-school room.

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 13 December 2023.

(b)

A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment and the smoke/fire detection system were last serviced 2 February 2023 and 31 January 2023 respectively.

(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 at all times in both care rooms inspected, in the sanitary areas as needed, during snack and mealtimes and for room activities by the staff members caring for them.

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 75 children.