

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015KE131

Name of Service: Cocoon Childcare -Naas

Address of Service: Millennium Park
Naas
Co. Kildare
W91X211

Email Address: info@cocoonchildcare.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Barry Cunningham

Type of Service Registered: Full Day Care

Date of Inspection: 0 1 0 3 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 98 PM 80

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

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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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).



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Conditions If Applicable

Not applicable

<p>Description of Service</p>	<p>This private service is one of a number of services operated by the registered provider throughout Kildare, Wicklow and Dublin and provides full day and part time care and education to children aged between 0 and 6 years. There were 98 children present on the day of inspection. The service is open from Monday to Friday between the revised times of 08:00-18:00 hours during the current pandemic. A sessional service is provided from 09:30-12:30 hours for 38 weeks of the pre-school year. A school age service is also provided.</p>
<p>Premises</p>	<p>The service is located in a purpose-built premises in an office park situated between Sallins and Naas. Eight preschool rooms, a dedicated sleep room, a kitchen, a large internal communal play/activity space and outdoor play areas are provided.</p>
<p>Staffing</p>	<p>There were twenty-two adults present on the day of inspection including the service manager, operations manager and the chef. All adults working directly with pre-school children hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
<p>Methodology</p>	<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. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. The scope of the inspection included the Junior Wobbler and Toddler rooms, Baby room, Pre-school room 2 and the outdoor play areas.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the persons in charge, staff 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.

Compliance Information:

A sampling process was used to review the records. The records of 13 adults recruited since the last inspection were reviewed.

(2)

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults recently employed.

(d) Police vetting was available for 12 adults recently employed who had lived outside the state for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) The childcare staff members recently employed and working directly with children attending the service held a major award 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 ninety-eight children attending the service being supervised directly by nineteen 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 at all times for the duration of the inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for the service.

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 of INFANTS & CHILDREN**
- There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service. A four-week menu plan was in place and was varied and nutritionally adequate. Food was freshly prepared daily. The children were served pancakes and fruit for morning snack and cottage pie with milk or water to drink was served for lunch. Water was freely available in the pre-school rooms to the children throughout the day. Parents supplied bottles of formula for their child in the Baby room. A comfortable chair was available in the Baby room for the adults to bottle feed the babies in a relaxed and nurturing manner as observed. The staff members sat with the children during mealtimes in the pre-school rooms and were attentive to their needs. Mealtimes were observed to be sociable and relaxed. Children were afforded plenty of time to eat their meals and were not rushed. Bibs were provided to the younger children to protect their clothing during mealtimes.
- Children enjoyed freedom of movement within all the pre-school rooms and all children were provided with the opportunity for outdoor play twice daily on a

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

rostered basis. The children were dressed appropriately for outdoor play with waterproof clothes available for each child if the weather was wet. Nappy changing procedures were carried out on a routine basis and more frequently if required. The inspector observed that staff interacted and communicated warmly with children during nappy changing procedures. A sleep room with eleven standard cots for children aged less than two years was available to facilitate needs led sleep for the children in the Baby and Junior Wobbler rooms. Low level sleep beds with appropriate bed linen were available for children requiring sleep at a designated time while attending the full day care or part-time services. Children's behaviour was managed positively with an emphasis on praise and encouragement.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

The children were observed to be content and relaxed within their pre-school rooms. Babies were held and cuddled throughout the morning and comforted if they became upset or tired. Babies were encouraged and supported to crawl and explore their environment by the staff as they sat on the floor with them and interacted in a playful, warm and caring manner.

The key worker approach was embedded in each of the pre-school rooms. On the day of the inspection all staff members were observed to be warm, kind and respectful towards the children in their care. They responded promptly to the non-verbal and verbal cues of each child. Children were spoken to using their first names, appropriate eye contact and with soft vocal tones during interactions. The large space in the center of the building known as 'activity street' was also used for free play and to assist with transitions during various times in the day such as lunch, when care rooms were being prepared for sleep.

Parents were provided with a daily written communication sheet as well as a brief handover at drop off and collection times. Each child attending the service also has an individual learning journal with documented observations, photographs and their artwork attached that is presented to parents/guardians at various stages throughout the year. The service manager uses telephone and email to further communicate with parents as necessary. Face to face meetings by appointment are arranged as necessary.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The pre-school room environments provided the children with interesting spaces to play, learn and develop. They were well presented and very well resourced to encourage each child to initiate self-directed activities. The children attending the Baby and Wobbler rooms had access to plenty of sensorial play materials including various types of fabrics, bubbles, sand and water play and play dough. The play materials in the younger rooms focused on natural, wooden and open-ended play

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

equipment and materials to extend the exploration, development and imagination for the children.

The low-level shelving units in the pre-school rooms ensured that the materials and equipment were freely available to children, enabling free choice of the equipment to support child led play. In the Toddler Senior and Preschool room 2 there were defined areas of interest which included home corners, construction area, library and rest spaces, mark making with arts and crafts resources, puzzles, jigsaws, shape and colour sorter toys, stacking toys, building bricks and blocks, sand and water, small world area including cars, trucks, small animals and dinosaurs

The children's individual artwork was on display throughout all rooms.

Comfortable rest areas were available in all rooms for children to relax and take a break throughout the day as required.

The 'activity street' area was divided into three spaces with comfortable armchairs and a large canopy space for the children to use and was equipped with natural, wooden and open-ended resources. Tables and chairs were also provided to accommodate the children for meals.

The outdoor area was a spacious space at the side and rear of the building. It was divided in to four areas which had direct access from preschool rooms. Three of the four surfaces had artificial grass surface. There was an extended roof which enabled the children to access to the outdoor area if the weather was inclement and provided shade during very sunny weather. There was space in each of the areas for the children to run freely. There were scooters, trikes, push along toys and a 'tuk tuk' tricycle which the children really enjoyed using. Other equipment included an outdoor art and chalk board, a water wall feature and sand trays.

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 to the main building was controlled with an electronic keypad mechanism. This ensured pre-school children did not exit the service unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

INFECTION CONTROL

There was an infection prevention and control policy available to inform practice and this 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. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towel were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Children were observed to wash their

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

hands regularly including before snacks and meals, following toilet use, nappy changing, outside play and as needed throughout the day. The children's handwashing was supervised by the staff members and the staff washed the babies and younger children's hands.

Gloves, plastic aprons and nappy sacks and a sealed airtight lidded pedal operated container were available for hygienic nappy changing practices in the nappy changing areas. Foot pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the hygienic disposal of soiled tissues and other waste.

Bed linen was individual to each child and stored individually.

The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Written cleaning schedules were displayed and maintained for all room environments.

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)

There were sufficient numbers of persons trained in first aid for children immediately available to the children at all times.

(2)(a)

The first aid boxes were stored out of the reach of pre-school children and in conspicuous positions in the pre-school rooms.

(b)

First aid boxes were readily available throughout the service.

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 firefighting 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 completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on February 25th 2022.

(b)

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were last serviced on September 1st 2021 and January 21st 2022 respectively.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the service.