

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE140
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Name of Service:	Kiddies Choice Creche
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Address of Service:	1 Elm Park, 38 Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W23 TH72
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Tuohy, Sean Tuohy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	16/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	21
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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, F. Maher.
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

Kiddies Choice Creche provides full day and part time care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday. A school age service is also provided.

The service is located in two premises close to each other adjacent to the main road into Celbridge. One is a two-story building, and the other is a ground floor building located in a commercial unit. There are three preschool rooms and a kitchen in the Maynooth road address and one preschool room in the Elm Park address. The office has temporarily relocated to the Maynooth road address. Two separate outdoor play areas are available at the rear of each of the premises.

Staffing

There were eleven adults present on the day of inspection; nine adults were working directly with the children in the care rooms including the designated person in charge who was providing support to the care rooms. The office manager and cook were present on site. The registered providers were not present for the inspection.

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 and premises and facilities. 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

1. 10 September 2024 - The inspection was undertaken due to information received by the Early Years Inspectorate relating to service.
2. A referral was sent to the Environmental Health Service on 17 September 2024.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors 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) 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.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

The files of two staff members recruited since the last inspection were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a) Two written and verified past employer references were available in respect of two adults employed in the service whose records were reviewed.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosure was available for two staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable, as the adults employed had not lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) Two adults working directly with the children held a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Qualifications Framework 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) There were forty-three children attending the service being supervised directly by eight adults.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Compliance Information

(d) The two premises were maintained in a clean and tidy condition. Cleaning schedules were used to record environmental cleaning completed.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
- Sunhouse room – 1 Elm Park building.**
1. There was evidence of water stain marking on the posterior wall above the patio door, mould and peeling paintwork on the left-hand side wall at the side of the patio door frame.
 2. There was also fungal like growth observed on the upper left side of the patio door frame along the juncture of the frame and wall.
 3. There was green discolouration observed on the covers of the two fluorescent lights in the part of the room.
- 38 Maynooth road building.**
4. There were 4 uncovered circular holes observed on the external walls and were drilled through to the internal rooms. The holes were installed for the air conditioning units located in Beehive care room, Cubs Cave room and Lions Loft room. The holes were uncovered, unfinished and the air conditioning venting tubing was not sealed in place.

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d)
- Sunhouse room – 1 Elm Park building.**
1. We sprayed the walls with anti mould spray, washed thoroughly, and applied one coat of anti mould paint together with two coats of silk emulsion paint. The reason for the dampness was due to being unable to waterproof the new roof fully because of the continuous rain over the last few months we were unable to get it dry enough to complete the fibreglass roof. We have now completed the roof with additional fibreglass and matting coating over the entire roof. This has been completed with 2 coats of top coat fibreglass resin. We expect there will be no further problems with water ingress.
 2. The wall has been thoroughly cleaned, sprayed, and painted with anti mould paint and emulsion finish.

3. The covers of the two fluorescent lights were removed and was cleaned thoroughly. One of the lights was replaced completely with a new fitting.

38 Maynooth road building.

4. Those holes were drilled for the new air conditioning units. The flexible ducting and exterior vents have now been fitted. The air conditioning units are now completed. As above we have completed the ducting and external air vents on the air conditioning units. There should be no further problems, and the air conditioning units assist in the rooms having a constant regulated temperature all year round.

Supporting documentation submitted

- 1 – 3. Receipt for purchase of materials; nine photographs of works completed.
4. Nine photographs of works completed.

Summary Comment

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