

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE172			
Name of Service:	Minnows Childcare			
Address of Service:	13 Straffan Wood, Straffan Green, Maynooth, Co. Kildare			
Eircode:	W23 F2Y9			
Name of Registered Provider:	Joyce Grant			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date 1 of Inspection:	29/01/2024			
Date 2 of Inspection:	31/01/2024			
No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	23	PM	13
No of pre-school children: Day 2		24		n/a
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road Naas, Co. Kildare W91 X38W			
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan and F. Maher (Days 1 and 2)			
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

Minnows Childcare provides full day-care, part-time care and sessional care to pre-school children aged 2 - 6 years of age. The service operates from 7:30am – 18:30 hours Monday to Friday. The service is based in a purpose-built building located in a housing development on the outskirts of Maynooth. There are three care rooms, a kitchen, and an office. The outdoor area is located at the rear of the property.

Staffing

There were six adults present on the day 1 of inspection, five were working directly with the children and one was the person in charge. On day 2, there were seven adults present. Five adults were working directly with the children, the manager and area manager were present.

The registered provider was not present for the inspection on both days.

The person in charge on day 1 and the manager on day 2 provided additional support to care rooms as required. Four of the five adults working directly with the preschool children all held a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education on the national framework of qualifications.

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, safety, premises and facilities.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1),(2) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 19(1)(a) – Health Welfare and Development of child.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 25 – First Aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures.
- Regulation 27 – Supervision
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.
- Regulation 29(d) - Premises.

however, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under:

- Regulation 16(1)(i) – details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under

- Regulation 19(1)(a) - Health, welfare and development of child,
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Blooming Butterflies and Caterpillar rooms.

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, area manager, 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-

- (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.
- (2)
- (c)) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all employed staff members.
- (d) Outstanding international police vetting from the last inspection (3 July 2023) in relation to one adult was on file.
- (4) Four adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications and one adult was in possession of a letter of eligibility to practice issued by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) One adult working directly with children did not have the relevant documentation on file determining the qualification held was a major award at Level 5 or equivalent in Early Childhood Care and Education.
- This was a noncompliance on previous inspections on 9 November 2022 and 3 July 2023 – The corrective and preventative actions submitted on both occasions failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.*

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (4) The qualification certificate has now been printed off and is on the staff file. There is a form at the front of the staff files with a checklist of the documents required.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (4) Qualification certificate.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 9.

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-three children attending the service being supervised directly by six adults on day 1 and twenty-four children being supervised by five on day 2.
- (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.

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:*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(i) The manager of the service was not included on the staff roster for the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)(i) The manager is now included in the weekly roster. We will ensure that all staff are included in the staff roster including management.

Supporting documentation submitted

Roster

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 16.

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, and

Compliance Information

Basic needs of children:

The service promoted a healthy eating policy. Food and snacks were provided at regular intervals during the day. Nappy changing was completed regularly and promptly when required. It was handled in a sensitive and positive manner. Independence was encouraged with children who were toilet trained however the staff members maintained supervision in case any assistance was needed.

All children requiring sleep, slept at a designated time during the day and were provided with as much time as they needed to sleep.

Children were spoken to in a kind and respectful manner. Their first names were used, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions.

Supporting relationships around children:

Staff members were observed being respectful and kind towards the children in their care.

They sat with the children at mealtimes and engaging them in conversation which ensured that the experience was relaxed and sociable.

Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times.

Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary and email and telephone contact are used as an alternative method of contact.

The person in charge has commenced a schedule of team meetings and one to one supervision with the staff members.

Physical and material environment:

Low level chairs and tables were available to the children for meals and tabletop activities.

The outdoor area was located at the rear of the premises; it was a spacious area and had a covered area which enabled its use during inclement weather.

Programme of activities:

The children were observed to be engaged in an art activity linked to St. Valentines day where they were painting and decorating polystyrene heart shapes.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic needs of children:

1. Plates were not provided for the children to eat their snack in Blooming Butterflies room. Some children were observed to place their food directly on the table.
2. Drinking water was not freely available to the children in Blooming Butterflies room.
3. Staff members did not sit with the children during dinnertime making it an enjoyable and social occasion for the children.
4. Some child stated they did not want the dinner, but no alternative meal was offered/provided.

Supporting relationships around children:

5. The transition to dinner time at 11:52am was not a calm, relaxed social experience for the children as observed by the following:
 - Children were served their dinners at various intervals and not as a whole group, as a result children were waiting, became fidgety and bored, were getting up from the table and walking around the room and moving to other tables.
 - One child was observed leaving the table with their plate of food to put in the bin unnoticed by the staff, the inspector brought this to the attention of the staff member plating the food.

Physical and material environment:

6. The physical and material environment in Blooming Butterflies room was not constructively planned, considered or presented from a child's perspective. The indoor environment did not have interesting play and learning spaces which provided developmentally appropriate, challenging, diverse, creative and enriching experiences that facilitated child led play. The defined areas of interest were poorly presented and resourced as evidenced by the following observations:

- The home corner was poorly presented and minimally resourced. There was some associative equipment in a container. Dress up clothes were in a container out of reach of the children. It was not presented attractively to invite the children to engage in child led play and limited imaginative play.
 - There was no obvious construction area in the room.
 - The books were placed on a bookshelf which was a little distance away from the mat. The children were not observed to use the reading/ rest area for rest or to read a book.
 - Playdough was provided by the staff members for an activity indoors on the morning of the inspection, however there was no sand and water play available either indoors or outdoors for child led play. This limited access minimised the children's awareness to experience sensorial play and restricted their choice, natural curiosity and imagination.
 - Puzzles, jigsaws, small world toys, arts and craft materials were all stored in containers out of the reach of the children which minimised children's opportunity to develop their manipulation skills as well as their reasoning and imaginative play.
 - There was no natural, real life, loose parts or open-ended materials available.
7. The physical and material environment of Caterpillars room was not constructively planned and observed to be under resourced to provide an interesting space for children to self-direct their play and learning, for example:
- It is acknowledged the children did engage with a play dough activity in the morning, however, there was no sand, shredded paper or water play available. The lack of available materials and resources minimised the children's awareness to experience sensorial play and limited children's choice, natural curiosity and imagination.
 - Four shelving units were either bare or had randomly placed items that were not grouped together to inform a child if this was an area of interest i.e. a box with some construction items placed beside a box of magnets, a box of animals and a box containing miscellaneous items.
 - Another unit had some dolls randomly placed on top with no indication that this was part of the home corner which was located at the other side of the room. There were no associative items in this area for example a doll's pram/buggy or a dolls cot.
 - There was no mark making area as the crayons and paper were observed stored on the bottom shelf of a tall storage unit and therefore not displayed to encourage the children to use them.
 - There were limited jigsaws and puzzles, and it was observed that four wooden puzzles were taken from the room to be used by another pre-school room thus reducing the resources further.

This was a noncompliance on a previous inspection on 9 November 2022 and 3 July 2023. The corrective and preventative actions submitted on both occasions failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

8. There was limited equipment available to the children in the outdoor area. There was a medium sized climbing frame, a balance beam, one ride on toys and two push along scooters, two small water and sand trays with nothing in them, balls and two tyres.

Programme of activities:

9. The routine in Blooming Butterflies room was adult led and did not respond to each child's interest. There was no written evidence of the structured planning of activities on a weekly or monthly basis. There was no evidence of planning for each child based on their individual observations which captured their emergent interests.

10. Some children were bored and were observed climbing on tables, throwing toys, running aimlessly around the room, play wrestling and fighting with other children. The noise level was raised for long periods during the morning which limited the opportunity for children to concentrate and learn.

11. Children attending Blooming Butterflies and Busy Bees rooms for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme were not provided with their three hours provision from 9:30am – 12:30 hours as evidenced by the following observations:

- The children attending Blooming Butterflies room on a full day care basis were moved to another room at 12:00pm for their lunch rather than to the outdoor area for play with the children attending on a sessional basis.
- The children attending Busy Bees room were brought outside at 12:23 hours to await collection at. The room was observed to be cleaned, equipment tidied, and all toys and resources put away prior to the children being taken outside.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Actions.

Basic needs of children:

1. The children in Blooming Butterflies are sessional children and bring their own lunches in their lunch boxes. Staff will provide plates going forward and remind children to use the plate or their lunch box rather than the table.
2. All children in this room also bring their own water bottles which are filled up when empty. We have also set up a water station each room.
3. The staff have been reminded of the importance of sitting and chatting with the children during all mealtimes.

- Staff have been reminded that an alternative meal option is offered if a child does not like what is on the menu that day.

Supporting relationships around children:

- All meals and snacks will be plated and served at the same time. Dinner time has been changed to 12.30pm to facilitate a calmer experience and to allow all children to get their ECCE hours uninterrupted.

Physical and material environment:

- We are working closely with an external quality mentoring service to address these issues and improve the physical and material environment. The home corner has been improved with more real-world items, dolls, prams. The dress up is now in a basket easily accessible to the children with a small table and mat. There is now a construction area which is clearly defined and blocks trucks and other building toys. The book area now has a book rack on the wall beside the cozy corner where there is a small couch mat and cushions for the children. There is always now playdough on the shelves. Sand and water are also available to the children both indoors and outdoors. Arts/ crafts and mark making are now on the shelf in the tabletop area along with manipulative activities puzzles etc. In each room the teachers are setting up nature tables or baskets of natural open-ended material.
- We are working closely with an external quality mentoring service to address these issues and improve the physical and material environment.
- The outdoor area has had a new safety surface installed since the last inspection. There are two balance bikes, one ride on car, one scooter and two scuttle bugs. We have commissioned a large mud kitchen for the garden, and an area that will be cordoned off for digging and construction. We have new goal posts for football and an existing basketball hoop. We have created an outdoor classroom area which has table chairs and shelves with mark making and tabletop activities.

Programme of activities:

- Through our work with an external quality mentoring service, we are working to help the staff in Blooming Butterflies move towards a more child led approach. There is short term and long-term planning in all the rooms including Blooming Butterflies which was in a file on the day of inspection. I have asked the staff to make sure that it is always displayed on the wall in that room. The staff will sign and date all observations.
- As stated earlier the original teacher in that room had left on Friday 26/1/24 and it was the first day with a new teacher in that room. With an inspection that morning it heightened the stress and the children felt it.

11. As stated above the dinner time has been moved to 12.30pm to accommodate ECCE children and to also lessen the movement between rooms and on the stairs. All ECCE children remain in their classrooms until the session is over. Staff lunch has been moved to 12.45 to accommodate this and cleaning the room after the session is finished in preparation for afterschool children arriving.

Supporting documentation submitted.

Photographs for points 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8.

Summary Comment

The written response and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 19. This area of practice will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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 controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school rooms. 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 safe storage of cleaning agents. The children were safely supervised and escorted on the stairs by two adults.

Infection Control:

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels in paper dispensers were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal operated bins were in place for the hygienic disposal of used paper towels. A foot pedal operated nappy disposal bin was observed in the nappy change area.

Nappy change facilities were available for any child who was not fully toilet trained.

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. Medication was stored safely out of the reach of children. The staff members were aware of the administration of medication policy and the safe practices to follow when administering medication.

Safe Sleep:

It was observed that 10-minute sleep check observations were completed on all sleeping children and the staff documented the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children in their care. The staff members were familiar with current best practice guidelines in relation to reducing the risk of sudden infant death syndrome. The environmental sleep room temperature was 19.4° Celsius at 13:07 hours.

Low level sleep beds were available for all children aged over 2 years requiring sleep.

Fire Safety:

The staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed.

Outing:

The service does not conduct outings.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There was no documentary evidence that daily written environmental room risk assessments were being completed. The last risk assessment was completed on 21 November 2023 and 11 December in Caterpillar room.
2. The outdoor area was not risk assessed or prepared prior to the children using the area on the day of the inspection. There was no documentary evidence available that daily outdoor risk assessments were routinely completed.
3. There was no documentary evidence that of system of managerial oversight of the environmental risk assessments was in place in the service.
4. There was no system in place to manage maintenance issues in a timely manner as evidenced by the observed repairs that were required in the premises.
5. A storage cupboard with school age resources was turned around to face the wall. There was uncovered edging exposing the internal compressed wood which created a potential risk of injury to a preschool child.
6. Two children were observed wearing necklaces in Blooming Butterflies room.

Infection Control:

7. There was no documentary evidence available that daily cleaning schedules for the room environments and equipment were maintained in Blooming Butterflies room. The last written record available was dated 10 November 2023 and 17 December 2023 in Caterpillar room.
8. Children in Caterpillar room did not wash their hands before eating their dinner at 11:54pm.
9. The ventilation grid in the sanitary area used by Blooming Butterflies room had a heavy build-up of dust.
10. The brush and dustpan were accessible to the children in Blooming Butterflies room which created a potential risk of infection to the children.
11. Childrens protective bibs used for art and sensory play were stored in sanitary area used by Blooming Butterflies room.
12. The dress up clothes in Caterpillar room were visibly stained and dirty. This created a potential risk of infection to the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Daily risk assessment sheets are outside the office and a member of staff checks the garden each morning. We have now moved them to the door area in the garden room.
2. The outdoor area is risk assessed every morning and staff double check each time they use the garden.
3. The manager now signs off on the risk assessment sheets.
4. Maintenance issues are addressed as soon as they come up. We now have a past parent who is our handy man, and this is working out well.
5. The after-school shelves have been turned around to prevent any potential risk of injury to the preschool children.
6. All staff are to make sure no children wear necklaces or anything around their neck.

Infection Control:

7. These were in a folder in the press in the room but are now displayed on the wall in each classroom.
8. Hand washing before meals is common practice in all the classrooms and very unusual that it did not happen on the day of the inspection. The staff have been reminded of the importance of this. A refresher in hand washing protocol has been completed in each classroom.

9. The cleaning of the ventilation grid in the sanitary area in Blooming Butterflies is now added to the weekly cleaning chart.
10. The dustpan and brush are stored behind the bin and out of the reach of the children.
11. The children's protective bibs for arts and crafts have been moved to the storeroom outside the classroom.
12. Dress up clothes are now included on the weekly cleaning chart.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Documents points 1, 2, 3, 6.

Photograph point 5.

Infection Control:

Photographs points 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted has been reviewed 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

(2)(b) First aid box were available in Curious Caterpillars room and on the ground floor of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
1. There was no person trained in first aid for children (FAR) immediately available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service on the day of the inspection.
 2. There was no adult available trained in first aid for children immediately available to the children between 18:00 – 18:30 hours following review of the staff roster. A corrective action was taken by the manager to correct this risk.

(2) (a)

3. There first aid box in Caterpillar room was not stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position as it was placed flat on top of a wall cupboard and there was no signage. There was signage in Blooming Butterflies room however there was no first aid box.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Two staff are attending FAR training on the 10th 17th and 25th of April 2024
2. Two staff have up to date First Aid training and one of them is rostered at the beginning and end of the day so there is always someone on site.
3. The first aid box is now in the storeroom between both classrooms and there is a First Aid sign on the door.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Invoice for FAR training booked.
2. Roster
3. Photograph

Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 25. This area will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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 was 5 January 2024.

(b) A maintenance record was kept of the smoke alarm system in the premises and was last serviced on 4 January 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) There was not an up-to-date maintenance documentation for the firefighting equipment which was last serviced in November 2022.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b) The fire company came the same day as the inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted.

Invoice for service completed.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 26.

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

There were twenty-three children attending the service who were supervised by five adults at the time of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The supervision of the children in Blooming Butterflies and Caterpillars during the transition which commenced at 11:45am, where full day care children moved to Caterpillars room for lunch, and the sessional children were prepared to go outdoors for play and then collection from the service, was disorganised and chaotic. Low level sleep beds were observed being brought in the Blooming Butterflies room by an adult during this period. Another adult was observed coming up the stairs with a tray containing hot dinners while the seven children from Blooming Butterflies room were on the small landing running about while the adults from Blooming Butterflies room were organising the full day care children to go to Caterpillars room to eat their lunch.

- Children were left unsupervised in Caterpillar room when sitting at the table to eat their dinner at 11:54pm. One staff member was changing a child's clothes in the bathroom and the other staff member had their back to the children as the food was being plated at the sink unit area in the room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- This routine has been changed; dinner time is now at 12.30pm when ECCE session is over. Beds are put down after the children have gone home.
- The staff have been asked that in a situation like this where one staff member is preoccupied with a child that the other teacher stop what they are doing so she can give her full attention to the group until the other teacher is finished.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The written response submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 27. This area of practice will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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 44 children.

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

- The outstanding works in the outdoor area had been completed.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. The paintwork in all the care rooms was stained, chipped, faded in areas and marked. Plasterwork was observed to be broken off in areas in Blooming Butterflies room. Residue marks associated with plastic adhesive were observed on the wall in rest area in Busy Bee's room.
 2. The wooden stairgate on the first floor was broken as the left-hand side of the vertical stairgate frame had split.
 3. A wooden gate on the left side of the outdoor area securing a pathway to the side of the building had come away from the two securing bolts and was observed to be rotting in areas.
 4. A drain was covered with debris and required to be cleaned as it was causing rainwater and other debris to spill out on the play surface.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. All rooms have been cleaned and adhesive has been removed as much as possible. All rooms will be freshly painted in the summertime.
2. The wooden stair gate has been fixed.
3. The outdoor gate has been replaced.
4. The drain is clear and has been added to the outdoor risk assessment weekly sheet.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photograph of communication with painter requesting quotation for painting work.
2. Photograph
3. Photograph
4. Photograph

Summary Comment

The written response and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 29. This area of practice will be reviewed at the next inspection.