

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015KE190

Name of Service: Superkids Childcare Centre

Address of Service: Alexandra Walk, Clane, Co. Kildare

Eircode: W91 HP26

Name of Registered Provider: Sandra Lobanovska

Service type: Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

Date(s) of Inspection: 18/09/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	25
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W

Inspection undertaken by: E. Mulhern

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 Not applicable

Description of service

Superkids Childcare Centre is one of two early years services operated by the registered provider. The service was registered at the time of inspection to provide sessional, part-time and full day care to a maximum of 59 children aged 2-6 years. The service operates from a one-storey, purpose-built premises in a residential area on the outskirts of Clane, Co. Kildare. It opens from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. There are six preschool rooms in operation. The premises includes sanitary facilities, a kitchen, an office, a staff room and an outdoor play area. Set down and parking facilities are available at the front of the premises.

Staffing

There are 15 staff employed to work in the service including the manager, deputy manager, school-aged childcare staff and a cook. Ten staff are employed to work directly with the pre-school children, with the managers available to help as needed.

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 safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 (1), (2), (4) - Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 (1), (2) & (8) (a) - Staffing levels

Regulation (15)(1) – Record of pre-school child

Regulation 16(1) (h), (i), (j) & (k) - Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

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 wishes 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) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
 - (b) Both the person in charge and a named person who could deputise were on the premises during the inspection. The staff roster provided for either the named person or person who could deputise to be present at all times of opening.
 - (c) A clear management structure was in place. Roles and responsibilities were documented, and staff were aware of their roles and the lines of authority and accountability.

(2) The registered provider ensured that all staff were suitable and competent prior to employment as outlined:

(a) & (b) It was evident that adequate consideration had been given to references for all staff members.

References had been sourced from their past employers and from another source where they had only one or no previous employers. All references had a record of verification checks carried out.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all 15 staff members, 11 of which were dated within the last three years. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) International police vetting had been sourced for all staff members who had lived in another state for more than six months as an adult.

(4) All staff employed to work directly with children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent by the Minister.

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) Ten adults are employed to work directly with the preschool children. On the day of inspection there were 9 adults working directly with 43 children. The person in charge and deputy person in charge were also available as needed.
- (2) The minimum ratio requirement of adults to children was maintained throughout the inspection. Staff and management were aware of the minimum requirements and the staff roster provided for this to be always maintained.
- (8) (a) There were at least two adults on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for at least two adults to be present at all times of opening.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

Compliance Information

A sample of 10 records for children were reviewed. The required information was available as outlined below.

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date when each child first attended the service.
- (c) A section was available for recording the date when the child ceases attending.
- (d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child.
- (f) Medical information, allergies, dietary preferences, additional needs, and other information specific to the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child's medical practitioner.
- (h) Immunisation details.
- (i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(h) Details of children's attendance, including their arrival and departure times were recorded.

(i) A staff roster was available detailing the start and finish times for all staff members.

(j) The person in charge reported that medication had not been given to any of the children in attendance. Parental consent was recorded for children who may require medicine. Template medication records were available and staff were aware of recording procedures.

(k) Records detailing accidents, injuries, and incidents involving children were readily available. A sample of ten records was reviewed. Each record contained appropriate details.

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:

Measures had been taken to safeguard the children. Entrances and exits were secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised or unauthorised access. Equipment was appropriately maintained, and items that could pose a hazard to children, such as medicines and cleaning products were securely stored out of their reach.

Emergency exits were kept clear to ensure the prompt evacuation of children in case of a fire. Staff demonstrated an understanding of fire safety measures, including fire drill procedures, the locations of fire extinguishers, and the importance of maintaining accurate attendance records for reference during an evacuation.

Infection Control:

Measures were taken to reduce the risk of infection spreading. Children were required to wash their hands after using the toilet, after outdoor play and before meals. Soothers used at sleep time were stored in separate containers to prevent cross contamination. Sterilising equipment was readily available for use as needed. Measures were taken to prevent the spread of infection during nappy changing including use of gloves and aprons and appropriate handwashing.

Waste management practices included the use of pedal-operated lidded bins to ensure proper containment. Individual bed linens were provided, and comprehensive cleaning schedules provided for these to be laundered at least weekly. Staff were aware of guidelines for when children and staff should stay home due to illness, including symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, and contagious conditions.

Administration of Medication:

Medications were stored in their original packaging out of reach of children. Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of procedures to safeguard children when administering medicine. This included getting written

consent from parents or guardians, having a second staff member present as a witness during administration, and maintaining detailed records shared with parents or guardians upon collection.

Safe Sleep:

Measures were taken to safeguard children during sleep time. Children slept on low beds suitable for their age and developmental stage. A staff member always remained in the room when children were sleeping. They conducted regular checks on the children which were documented.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for all staff members. However, four staff member's vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Infection Control:

2. The sanitary facilities were not adequately cleaned, posing a risk to infection control. A build-up of dust and debris was observed on the changing unit and a build-up of grime was observed on the wash-hand basins.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting disclosures for all four staff has been renewed. A note has been taken of all staff members Garda vetting disclosure expiry dates. The registered provider will renew these within three years.

Infection Control:

2. Areas have been thoroughly cleaned. Individual staff meetings have been carried out to remind staff of the importance of daily cleaning. Management have created a daily checklist which is focused on specific areas within the classrooms and changing areas that are checked twice a day by management.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Copies of renewed Garda vetting disclosures for four staff members.
2. Copy of cleaning checklist.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted have been deemed to adequately address the non-compliance.