

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KK009		
Name of Service:	Eden Childcare Kilkenny		
Address of Service:	Unit 4, IDA Business Park, Loughboy, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny		
Eircode:	R95 NY49		
Name of Registered Provider:	Aine Russell		
Service type:	Full Day, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	29/11/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	73	PM 61
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency Early Years Inspectorate, Ely hospital Ferrybank, Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry C Ryan		
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 Not applicable

Description of service

Eden Childcare Kilkenny is a purpose-built childcare service which is situated in the IDA Business Park in Kilkenny city. The service provides an Early Years Care and Education (ECCE) programme, part time and full daycare childcare services for preschool children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service is open from 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday. It has six preschool rooms, Toddler room one, Toddler room two, Pre-Montessori room, Playschool room, Naíonra and Montessori room. There are toilets, nappy changing facilities, three designated sleep rooms, an entrance hall, and a large outdoor play area to the rear of the service. There is an onsite kitchen where meals and snacks are prepared for the children. The service also provides a school age service.

Staffing

The service employed a total of 16 staff, including the registered provider. All staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a)(b),
Regulation 22 Food and Drink,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).
Regulation 28 Insurance.
Regulation 30 Space Requirements.

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, 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) (b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 16 staff employed in the service including the registered provider. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)

There were 20 written and validated references available on file from past employers.

(b)

There were 10 written and validated references available on file from reputable sources. There were two written references on file from reputable sources for the registered provider which did not require to be validated.

(c)

There was evidence of Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members.

(d)

Police vetting was available on file for one staff member who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

All staff working directly with the preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children at all times for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

In the morning there were 73 children with 12 staff. In the afternoon there were 61 children in the care of 11 staff. In the afternoon there were 61 children in the care of 11 staff.

The registered provider and the manager were available throughout the duration of the inspection and were available to assist across the rooms as required.

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

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service focusing on the areas of basic needs and supporting relationships on the day of inspection.

Children in the Pre Montessori room enjoyed yoga in their room during the morning and reading their favourite stories. They were interested in hibernation and were busy painting a cardboard box to make a cave for their teddy bear to sleep for the winter. They talked about going for a walk in the afternoon to collect leaves and food for the bear in the cave. Staff played classical music in the room to help promote a relaxing atmosphere. The daily routine was very calm and relaxed, with the children transitioning between activities seamlessly. Children were helped with handwashing before eating, and personal care was attended to regularly. For example, faces were cleaned after eating and children's noses wiped as needed. The room was well resourced with open shelves, homes corners, toys, books and seating area. Artwork, birthday walls and family photos were display.

Children in the Montessori room were observed during circle time. Staff used the opportunity to discuss the importance of road safety. Staff asked open ended questions. Such as "what should we do to keep us safe on the road". Children in the playschool room ate their dinners in an unrushed and relaxed atmosphere. The children were observed sitting together and chatting. After dinner children enjoyed playing with playdough, story time and were also interested in hibernation. Children who required sleep were settled on suitable mattresses in the sleep room when they needed to rest. Staff were very kind and reassuring to a child who was unsettled, helping the child to settle and enjoy the daily activities.

In the Naoínra room, children enjoyed free play after lunch. The children were engaged in a variety of table top activities such as peg boards, small world imaginative toys, animal and fire trucks. The children practiced for their Christmas play during the morning and enjoyed time outside. During circle time the staff and children practiced their Irish language.

The transitions between activities were calm, the staff gave the children prompts. The children washed their hands before their afternoon snack, set the table with their individual place mats and helped give out their water bottles to their friends. The children told the inspector that they were getting soup for their afternoon snack. A child who was still hungry after her afternoon snack and asked for a yogurt was given one.

(b)
Children who wore nappies had them changed regularly throughout the day and at other times when required. Nappy changing was observed by the inspector. Staff were observed talking to the children while changing their nappies. Children were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards. They sang the song “wash, wash, wash your hands.” Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards.

Staff who spoke to the inspector said the service used a mobile phone application to communicate with parents.

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 promoted healthy eating and all the foods and snacks were supplied and cooked on the premises by the chef. During the morning snack, children ate chopped fruit and yogurt. Dinner was served at mid-day and consisted of freshly made meatballs and pasta. Children were served homemade soup and scones for the afternoon snack. The food provided was prepared and served to meet the stages of development of the children. For example, the food for younger children was a mashed/lumpy texture and the older children’s dinner was served whole. The meals were served in the rooms with the staff helping children to wash their hands and set the tables. Water and milk were available to drink.

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

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was made of glass. There was an intercom system which was also linked to the reception area. Staff could see who was seeking to gain access to the service. The openings of the windows were restricted with appropriate restrictive opening devices. All radiators were thermostatically controlled and were purpose built to include protective coverings. The fire doors were not obstructed.

Infection Control

Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before eating, after messy play and after toileting. Staff were observed to wash young children's hands before and after nappy changing. Nappy changing procedures observed on the day were in line with the services nappy changing policy. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. Staff were seen to attend to children's personal hygiene during the day. Mouthing toys and soothers were washed and sterilised daily. The windows in the playrooms were open to provide natural ventilation. The service was clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules maintained daily by staff. The nappy changing policy was on display in the nappy changing unit next to the toddler room.

Administration of medication

There was an administration of medication policy. The staff showed the inspector the procedure to follow when a child required administration of medication. Administration of medication was recorded on the service's tablet. Medicines were supplied by parents and stored securely in a designated area inaccessible to children.

Safe Sleep

The service had three designated sleep rooms, one located within Toddler room 1 and two located on the corridor adjacent to the main entrance. The different sleep rooms were equipped to meet the different ages and needs of the children, for example the sleep room in the toddler room had cots and one of the sleep rooms was equipped with sleep mats for older children. Individual bed linen was available, which was laundered as needed.

Staff who spoke with the inspectors were aware of safe sleep practices for example, how often a sleeping child was physically checked, recording of the observations such as colour, position and breathing rate and the optimum sleep room temperature. The staff stated they remained in the rooms with the children till they settled to sleep and carried out physical sleep checks every 10 minutes as per the service policy on safe sleep.

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 was a person trained in first aid for children immediately available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool 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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill had taken place in the service in November 2023.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm was last serviced in November 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

There was insurance in place to cover the children who were present on the day of inspection.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(2)

A review of the room measurements was done on inspection. All the rooms had sufficient space to meet the needs of the children and staff attending the service. The following table demonstrates the room measurements:

Room	Size	Children's Age Profile
Montessori Room	46.1 m ²	3-5 years
Toddler Room 2	28 m ²	1-3 years
Náionra Room	44.8 m ²	3-5 years
Toddler Room 1	40 m ²	1-3 years
Playgroup Room	33 m ²	2-4 years
Preschool Room	31 m ²	2-3 years