

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KK064
Name of Service:	Oasis Childcare Centre CLG
Address of Service:	Tobernapeastia, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny
Eircode:	R95 WN30
Name of Registered Provider:	Helena Comerford
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
Dates of Inspection:	12/02/2024
Date 2 of Inspection:	13/02/2024

No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	69	PM	46
Day 2	AM	69	PM	47

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child & Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Thornton
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
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Description of service

Oasis Childcare Centre is a full day care community childcare service located in the town of Freshford in north Kilkenny. The service operates from a purpose-built childcare premises offering full day, part-time and sessional childcare services to children agreed from birth to six years of age. The service is open from 08:00 to 18:00 hours, Monday to Friday, for 48 weeks of the year, closing for a week at Christmas, Easter and for 2 weeks during the Summer.

The building is comprised of six classrooms, four on the ground floor and two on the first floor. There is a reception/office area, a designated kitchen and dining area, three designated sleep rooms with air conditioning systems on the ground floor and six separate outdoor play areas.

Staffing

There were 20 staff members employed in the service including the designated person in charge, office administrator, maintenance person, kitchen staff and cleaner. Two early childhood care and education students are also on placement with the service. All staff working directly with the children in the service held qualifications in early childhood care and education at Level 5 to Level 8 on the national Quality and Qualifications (QQI) 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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following regulations.

10-Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-School Service.

15-Record of a pre-school child,

16-Record in relation to pre-school service,

19-Health Welfare and Development of Child,

23-Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of child,

25-First Aid,

26- Fire Safety Measures.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Oak room, the Willow room, the Hazel room, the Ash room, all located on the ground floor. The Birch room and the Holly room, located on the first floor.

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

This inspection was triggered by receipt of information by the inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on both days 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers, and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

*(b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
(c) these Regulations.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a designated person in charge in the service, who was present and facilitated the inspection on the two days.

(b) The designated person in charge confirmed that there was a named deputy designated person in charge, who was also present for the inspection.

(c) A clear outline of the management of the structure was displayed in the service, identifying the lines of authority, accountability, the roles, and responsibilities of individual staff members in the service.

(2) Staff files for 20 staff members employed in the service and 2 students on course placement in the service, were reviewed by the inspector.

(a)(b) Two references were available on file for each of 20 staff members, from either a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting certificates were available on file, for each staff member working directly with the children, for all ancillary staff and for the two students.

(d) Police vetting was available for each of nine staff members, who had lived outside of the state for a period longer than six months.

(3) On review of staff files the inspector was assured that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any staff member commencing employment in the service.

(4) Certificates of qualifications were available in each staff member's file, demonstrating that each staff member working directly with the children held qualifications in early childhood care and education at Level 5 to Level 8 on the national Quality and Qualifications (QQI) framework.

(7) Each staff file recorded that the pre-school service's policies and procedures were communicated to the staff, as part of their induction process, on commencement of employment in the service.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

On review of the service's policies, the inspector observed that the registered provider ensured that all required documents specified in Schedule 5, were available in the service. The service policies and procedures were revised annually, and discussed with the staff, as part of their continuous professional development, within the service.

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) During the two inspection days the inspector observed that there was an adequate number of qualified staff members working directly with the pre-school children in attendance at the service.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children as schedule 6 were maintained as follows throughout the day of inspection.

The Oak Room – Day 1 AM- There were 3 children, aged 11 to 15 months, directly cared for by 1 staff member.

PM- There was one child aged 15 months directly cared for by 1 staff member. **Day 2** Throughout the day there was one child aged 15 months cared for by 1 staff member.

The Willow Room- Day 1 There were 6 children aged from 16 months to 2 years directly cared for by 2 staff members throughout the day. **Day 2** There were 7 children cared for by 2 staff members throughout the day.

The Hazel Room-Day 1 & Day 2 There were 9 children aged 2 to 3 years directly supervised by two staff members throughout the day.

The Ash Room -Day 1 There were 15 children aged 3 to 4 years, directly supervised by 2 staff members, between the sessional hours of 09:00 to 12:00. From 12:00 to 14:00 hours, 10 children were supervised by 2 staff members and from 14:00 to 18:00 hours 5 children were supervised by 1 staff member. **Day 2** There were 16 children aged 3 to 4 years, directly supervised by 2 staff members, between the sessional hours of 09:00 to 12:00. From 12:00 to 14:00 hours, 10 children were supervised by 2 staff members and from 14:00 to 18:00 hours 5 children were supervised by 1 staff member.

The Birch Room- Day 1 & Day 2 There were 16 children aged 3.5 to 5 years, directly supervised by 2 staff members, between the sessional hours of 09:00 to 12:00. From 12:00 to 14:00 hours, 9 children were supervised by 2 staff members and from 14:00 to 18:00 hours 5 children were supervised by 1 staff member.

The Holly Room- Day 1 & Day 2 There were 20 children aged 3.5 to 5 years, directly supervised by 3 staff members, between the sessional hours of 09:00 to 12:00. A student in early childhood care and education was also present. From 12:00 to 14:00 hours, 11 children were supervised by at least 2 staff members, and from 14:00 to 18:00 hours 5 children were supervised by 1 staff member.

(8) The registered provider ensured that there were always at least four adults on the premises, and this was observed clearly documented on the staff roster available on each day of inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) On review of a sample of 19 children's pre-school records, the inspector observed that all elements (a) to (i) were clearly recorded as required by Regulation 15.

Written parental consent was observed to be documented in each of the 19 sampled records and where necessary, child centred plans had been carefully outlined, where a child that may require specific treatment for a medical condition.

(3)(a)(b)(c) The designated person in charge assured the inspector that each child's record was available to their parents, a staff member in the service who may require to review the file and to an authorised person.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (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

On review of records available for inspection, the inspector observed the following.

(1)(a)-(k) The registered provider and management in the service developed, maintained, and appropriately stored the following relevant documents and records required:

(a) staff records, (b) the type of service and the age profile of the children, that the service is registered to provide, (c) details of the adult: child ratios in each classroom within the service, (d) the programme of care provided in the service, (e) details of the facilities available, (f) the opening hours and fees of the service, (g) the policies, procedures and statements that the service is required under Regulation 10, (h) each child's daily attendance details, (i) records of staff rosters,

(j) administration of medication records and (k) accident and incident records, involving any early years children attending the service.

A sample of the records reviewed by the inspector were observed to be completed in full, with the relevant details recorded.

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.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that no corporal punishment is inflicted on a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

Physical & Material Environment/ Programme of Activities

Through observation of the following preschool classrooms, the Oak room, Ash room, Holly room and Birch room over the course of the two inspection days, the inspector was assured by the staff and processes observed, that the children were cared for in supportive and nurturing learning environments.

From the young children in the Oak room where the staff member was observed meeting individual children's needs, responding to cues for sleep and hunger to the older children in the upstairs Birch room and Holly room where staff were consistently engaged in activities of emergent interests and conversations. For example, on

Pancake Tuesday, all room received pancakes from the kitchen and a pancake stall was established in the Holly room. The children set up a shop stall, placing a staff member behind it from whom they could order their pancake and decorate it with a choice of their desired toppings.

While in the Birch room, where children had decided to have their pancakes as part of their morning snack, as they waited for the pancakes to arrive the staff engaged the children in conversations about plans at home for pancake Tuesday. Information regarding who had already had pancakes for breakfast that morning flowed from the children, with their likes or dislikes of pancake toppings being voiced.

Regardless of the distraction of pancakes for a special occasion, the inspector observed that children in all the afore mentioned classrooms were comfortable in their physical environments, clearly demonstrating the variety of interest areas created in each room, construction areas, rest and reading areas, home/kitchen corners as well as a variety of manipulative and connective resources, play equipment appropriate to the interest areas, reading materials and displayed evidence of their curricular learning and activities.

In the Ash room children had voiced an interest in firemen. A local campaign to recruit firemen was in process and children had observed the large recruitment poster at the edge of the village. In collaboration with the local fire station, the service organised a visit from the local firemen and their fire engine to the service. Children excitedly informed the inspector that they got to sit in the fire engine and see all the fireman's uniforms and equipment. Following the visit, they had worked on cut out firefighters, decorating them with cut out fire helmets, boots, coats and all their necessary equipment that the needed.

The children subsequently developed an interest in space and astronauts and similarly had created individual paper collages of planets, stars and rockets with coloured paper, paints, and paper plates. Together they decorated a large box in space colours and as an astronaut uniform, taking turns to look out the circular opening at the front and having their individual "astronaut" photos taken.

Children were observed to confidently approach staff and voice their needs with staff responding to them at their level, either bending to maintain eye contact and listen to the child or taking them into their arms to comfort them or to give them a moment.

Children transitioned comfortably between activities and the variety of outdoor spaces provided in the service ensured that children from all age groups spent a large amount of their day in the service outdoors.

Younger children from the Oak room and Willow room were observed to particularly enjoy the appropriately created outdoor environment which consisted of an artificially covered grassed surface with a large area covered

by a sheltered pagoda. Many interest areas such as sand trays, a crawling caterpillar tunnel, outdoor ball pit, swing, musical and sensory boards, willow forest and low bench seating were provided. Children had plenty of clear space to crawl, and practice their walking and running in, while the environment also offered the younger children in the Oak room to mix with the older children in the Willow room, observing and learning from them. Two little children were observed to start playing golf together with a plastic ball from the ball pit and a plastic ladle that they found in the outdoor kitchen which the ball perfectly fitted into.

Basic Needs of Infants and Children.

Basic care needs of the children were met by staff with nappy changing and toileting supported as required. Children were responded to when tired, and according to their daily schedules which staff had discussed with parents. Individual children in the younger classrooms had their typical daily schedule displayed so that staff were aware of their preferred nap times or mealtimes.

Meals in the service were provided by an external company which provided a four-week rolling menu, which was displayed for parents on the parents notice board.

For children attending the service from opening, a selection of cereals, milk and toast were provided. Infants brought their milk bottles already prepared from home in line with best practice milk formula guidelines. Staff in the Oak room ensured that each child's bottle was clearly labelled and stored in the middle shelf of the fridge in the Oak room. Bottles were observed to be appropriately reheated in a bottle warmer as required. Soothers were also stored in individually labelled containers and reesterilised as necessary.

Children brought their own snacks for snack time at approximately 10:30hours from home. All snacks observed were appropriate and in line with the service's healthy eating policy.

The main meals observed that were offered were creamy chicken and tomato pasta on Monday and beef casserole and mash on Tuesday. A hot meal at teatime was also offered, cottage pie on Monday and Sweet potato and chickpea curry on Tuesday evening.

Other options for dinner that were documented, included chicken curry, pasta marinara and garlic bread, meatballs, broccoli, and cauliflower. Options that were included in the tea menu included beef past bolognaise, fish fingers and mash, and roast chicken, vegetables, and mash. In discussion with the designated person in charge a selection of cold meats, cheese, beans, pasta, fruit, and yogurts were also stored in the kitchen if a child wanted something different or did not like what meal was on the menu on a particular day.

(2) In discussion with staff, the inspector was assured that the staff in the service were aware of their service's policies and procedures, clearly outlining practices that were not permitted in the service and demonstrating knowledge of their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding the children in their care. On observation staff responded promptly and kindly to the children in their care. Staff were observed to quickly identify if a child was not themselves, monitoring them and communicating with management and parents if required.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) 1. While the inspector observed that they physical environments in four of the six classrooms were inviting and appropriate for the children in attendance, the inspector observed that there was a lack of interest areas created in the Willow room. The room contained tables for the children to sit at and then a couch which had been closed off to the children by a rail.

Play resources and materials in the Hazel room were not used to create clearly identifiable interest areas and stimulate the children to play independently. Children in both rooms were observed to prefer to use the outdoor spaces provided, which were observed to have clearly defined and inviting interest areas.

2. While the four other classrooms provided drinking water stations, the children in both the Willow and Hazel room could not independently access drinking water and there was no identifiable drinking station or water visible to the children to point to. Staff were not observed to encourage the children in these rooms to drink water in between mealtimes.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following response was submitted by the service.

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The service has been engaged with a quality initiative and appointed early years specialist in recent months to improve the physical layout of the rooms and to focus on indoor materials and resources.

While progress has been made on some rooms the service acknowledges that further development is needed in both rooms as outlined in the inspection report.

Following from the inspection the service manager requested the assistance of the early years specialist to assist the service to focus on both rooms specifically. The specialist has had two onsite mentoring visits since the inspection to assist us with this process.

Some improvements have been made and improvements are ongoing.

2. Water stations have been set up in the Willow Room and the Hazel Room. The stations have been placed on shelves that are visible to the children to encourage them to drink water. Practitioners in both rooms have been requested to offer sips of water to young children on a regular basis throughout each day.

Preventive Action

The service manager will consistently review the interest areas in both rooms and ensure appropriate materials and resources are available to the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Copy of correspondence and report from early years specialist outlining goals planned and progress achieved on reflection of and development of the indoor physical environments.
2. Photographic evidence of revised and developed physical environments demonstrating the positive physical changes.
4. Photographic evidence of water stations in both classrooms.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted are appropriate to address the non-compliances. The implementation of these actions will be reviewed on 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 inspector observed that the service was secured with a keypad system and a reception area was located directly in front of the main entrance enabling the office administrator to have a clear view of any potential visitors to the service. Designated classroom areas could only be accessed with a key fob system. The outdoor play area was surrounded by a ten-foot-high wooden fence with secured and locked wooden gates. On observation the inspector was assured that during the service's operational hours, that no unauthorised person could enter the premises and no child could exit the service unsupervised.

Separate designated secure areas, away from the children’s classrooms, were provided for cleaning equipment and concentrated forms of cleaning agents.

In the classrooms, cleaning sanitisers were locked in a cupboard or placed high out of children’s reach when not in use.

Child height stairs rails were provided on the stair well between the ground floor and first floor, to provide children with support going up and down the stairs.

Indoor furniture and shelving were observed to be secured in place and maintained in a safe condition.

The play equipment in the outdoor area was observed to be appropriately sourced, observed to be secure, checked daily by staff and was used appropriately in line with the manufacturers’ instructions.

Infection Control:

The service had an adequate infection control policy in place. A separate handwashing, nappy changing policy and toileting policy were attached as part of the service’s Infection Control policy.

Hand washing was observed to be carried out by both staff and the children, prior to mealtimes, after using tissues to blow noses, after messy and outdoor play.

Toileting and nappy changing were supported and carried out in line with both the toileting and nappy changing policies contained in the service’s infection control policy.

Cleaning schedules were displayed in each classroom and indicated that these were recorded daily by the staff present, as tasks were completed.

Administration of Medication:

The inspector observed two administration of medication procedures on the first day of inspection. Each procedure was carried out by two staff members checking the specific details of the child, to whom the medication was to be administered, and the dose of the medication in line with the consent form completed by the child’s parents and in line with the service’s administration of medication policy.

The inspector observed records and from discussion with staff that where a child had additional medical needs, specific child centred plans had been devised. Staff were confidently informed of procedures and on how to administer any specialised medication should the need arise. Staff were aware of where medications were safely stored and knew how to easily access those medications if they were required.

Safe Sleep:

The service had three designated sleep rooms located on the ground floor. One sleep room was adjacent to the Oak Room and provided four standard cots for up to a maximum number of six, 0-to-1-year olds that could be accommodated in the Oak room.

A second sleep room adjacent to the Willow room provided three standard cots for children aged 1 to 2 years of age, for the six children in attendance.

A third sleep room adjacent to the Hazel room provided a quiet area for the children aged 2 to 2 years and 8 months in the Hazel room, to sleep if they required. Stackable beds were provided.

All three sleep rooms were well ventilated with sleep room temperatures maintained between 16 to 20 °C. Each child had individually labelled linen, which was observed to be clean and fresh. Mattresses provided were observed to be clean, firm and of the correct size.

The inspector observed that as individual children's sleep needs were provided for, staff monitored the children carrying out physical checks of their position, breathing and colour every ten minutes and recorded their findings.

Outing:

A outings policy had been developed for the service. As a variety of spacious outdoor play areas were provided onsite, the service generally did not operate outings away from the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The rubbish bins that were observed in both the Oak room and the Willow room were wall mounted to ensure the young children in attendance could not access the bins. While it was observed that these bins had a rubber tag at the front of the bin to lift the bin without touching the lid, the inspector observed that staff found it necessary to remove the bin cover by hand to insert rubbish. This was not appropriate to best practices for infection control and could potentially pose a risk of cross infection in the service.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following corrective and preventive actions were submitted.

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

The wall mounted rubbish bins were specifically selected for the purpose of infection control in these rooms so that children could not access the bins. Unfortunately, the inspector observed the staff using the opening mechanism for the bins incorrectly. Staff are to use the rubber tag to lift the lid and drop the rubbish inside, therefore not coming in contact, with the lid or inside of the bin. Staff have been reminded on how to use the bins correctly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of how to use the bin correctly.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted are accepted to address the non-compliance. The implementation of these actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

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) On review of staff files in the service the inspector observed that nine staff members held current first aid responder (FAR) training. The roster reflected the presence of seven FAR trained staff on both days of inspection and ensured that there was always at least one FAR trained member of staff onsite.

(2) (a) Two first aid stations were available in the service, one on the ground floor and one on the first floor. Each first aid station comprised of a first aid bag and a secure high positioned first aid cupboard for the safe storage of medications.

(b) The first aid bags were observed to be stocked sufficiently with the necessary resources and were monitored with monthly checks of their contents recorded. The first aid bags were always available if required for the children.

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 fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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 record of monthly fire drills carried out in the service was maintained, the last fire drill carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place on 10 January 2024.
- (b) A record of the annual maintenance checks of fire-fighting equipment in the service and the service's fire alarm system was maintained. The last maintenance check for the fire-fighting equipment was recorded as having taken place in November 2023 and the last maintenance check for the alarm system were recorded as having taken place on the 07 February 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the reception area and in each classroom. A fire assembly point was clearly signposted, in the service's large carpark at the back of the premises.

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

Throughout the two days of inspection the inspector observed that the required adult to child staff ratios were maintained in each of the classrooms. Relief was provided by surplus staff and the designated person in charge for staff breaks and on occasions such as nappy changing times or when a child required one to one care, to settle to sleep.

In the outdoor area the teams of staff from the various classrooms were observed to support each other over the child height fences if one staff member had to go inside with a child to the toilet. In the outdoors space all staff had a clear view of their own outdoor play area.

Indoors, supervision was always maintained by a staff member if the other staff member was in the nappy changing area, sleep area or supporting a child with toileting.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate displaying insurance for a full day care childcare service for up to 110 preschool children was available for inspection. The service is currently registered to accommodate a maximum number of 102 preschool children.