

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LH087								
Name of Service:	Shining Stars Pre-school								
Address of Service:	5 Cherry Brook Ardee Co. Louth A92 HN72								
Email Address:	eilish.mcneice@gmail.com								
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms Eilish Mc Neice								
Type of Service Registered:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sessional</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
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Date of Inspection:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	1	6	0	5	2	0	2	2
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>11</td> <td>PM</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	AM	11	PM					
AM	11	PM							
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre Commons Road Navan Co. Meath								
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	C Tunney Early Years Inspector								

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	<p>Shining Stars Pre-school is a privately operated service in operation since 2010. The service is located in Ardee town Co. Louth.</p> <p>The service provides a sessional pre-school education and care service for children from 2 years to 6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service operates from 09.30 hrs-12.30hrs Monday to Friday.</p>
Premises	<p>The pre-school is facilitated in a building attached to the registered providers' private dwelling on ground floor level. The service comprises of one room and children's sanitary accommodation. The outdoor play area is located to the rear of the pre-school.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider and one staff member are employed in the service, of which one staff member is employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). The two staff members hold a major award in Early Childhood Education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).</p>
Methodology	<p>Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.</p> <p>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.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

GOVERNANCE

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) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present on arrival of the Inspector and was present for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) Two written and appropriately validated references were available for both staff members.
- (a) Two written and appropriately validated reference were from past employers.
 - (b) Two written and appropriately validated reference was from a reputable source.
- (c) Garda Vetting was available in respect of two adults.
- (d) Not applicable as the adults had not lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) Both staff members held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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)—
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information:

- (1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in the preschool room.
- (3) The adult/child ratio was correct; two staff members provided direct care to 11 pre-school children aged 2 years 11 months to 4 years 3 months.
- (8) The registered provider ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service is available, confirmed by documentation.

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

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS:

- The children's basic care needs were met on the day of inspection. The staff members were attentive to the children's needs. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their level of independence. Assistance was provided as required.
- The snack on the day of inspection consisted of a variety of healthy small sandwiches and fruit pieces prepared by parents. Snack time was unhurried and a social occasion where the children chatted about their ideas with the staff members.
- A quiet area was available for children to rest or have quiet time.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The furniture provided in the pre-school room was suitable, and age appropriate for the children attending with play materials accessible to the children.
- A range of suitable play materials was available. The designated play areas were resourced to facilitate child-initiated play. Defined interest areas included a wooden cooker and support play materials, arts and crafts, train set, building blocks, small cars, and puzzles.
- An outdoor area consisting of a hard and soft surfaced area to the rear of the pre-school was available to promote gross motor development. Play materials included a slide, scooters, footballs, and a sand area.

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:

The registered provider ensured all reasonable measures were put in place (except as outlined below) to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending such as;

GENERAL SAFETY:

- The premises were appropriately secured to prevent pre-school children from exiting unsupervised and restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- Children's attendance was recorded daily, and staff also recorded their attendance on a daily basis.
- Details of accidents and incidents were recorded with all applicable information.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The pre-school infection control procedures and practices were in place. The premises, its play equipment and materials were maintained in a satisfactory state.
- Hand washing was carried out as recommended, children were encouraged to be independent, and assistance was given as required.
- Prior to the children's meals, tables were cleaned.
- Warm running water was available in the children's sanitary area, along with a supply of liquid soap, paper towels and foot operated bins.
- Perishable foods were stored in a fridge to prevent growth of poisonous bacteria.

Non-Compliance Information:

1. Sharp corners were not cushioned which posed a safety risk.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	<p>2. The low windowsill had a sharp edge which was not cushioned which presented a safety hazard.</p>
<p>Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider</p>	<p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharp corners on all furniture were fitted with protective cushioning to minimise risk of injury. 2. A low windowsill was fitted with a cushioned soft edge to prevent risk of injury. <p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>As part of a daily risk assessment these areas will be assessed for the presence and security of the cushioning to maintain high safety levels in the preschool.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The response from the registered provider has been accepted. Photographic evidence submitted to the inspectorate demonstrates that the registered provider has applied padded protection to sharp edges of furniture and along the low windowsill to prevent an injury to a pre-school child. Regulation 23 has been addressed.</p>

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First Aid

	<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (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.
<p>Compliance Information:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The registered provider ensured a person trained in First Aid Response was available to the children attending the pre-school service. (2) The first aid box available in the service was suitably equipped and stored in conspicuous location on the premises and available for the children in attendance, in the event of an emergency.

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
- (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:	<p>(1)(a) A written record was maintained of fire drills that had taken place within the service; the date of the last fire drill was 05/04/2022.</p> <p>(b) An up-to-date record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises which were last serviced on the 30/04/2022 and 19/10/2020 respectively.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the service.</p>
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Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information:	The registered provider ensured the pre-school service had a valid insurance certificate with an expiry date of 28 th March 2023.
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