

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK045
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Name of Service:	Childworld Creche
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Address of Service:	Our Lady of Lourdes, Greenfields Cross Childers Road, Rosbrien, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 KX9V
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Name of Registered Provider:	John Bennett
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	26/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	32
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Early years Inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan, E Browne
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

Childworld Creche is a community full day childcare service located in an urban area on the outskirts of Limerick city. It offers sessional, part-time and fulltime places to children from 6 months to 6 years of age. It is open Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 5.00pm.

The service operates from a single storey premises. There are 4 well developed playrooms and an additional playroom is provided for break out groups and smaller group activities. Sanitary facilities are located adjacent to each room in the service. There are two sleep rooms available to the children from the Baby and Toddler playrooms. A kitchen where meals are prepared each day is located in the building. There are 3 outdoor play areas in the service, 1 located to the rear of the building and 2 outdoor areas located to the side of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider is the chairperson of the management committee. A manager is appointed who works full time in the service and there are an additional 22 staff employed to work at the facility. Relief staff are available to cover lunch breaks, staff holidays and absenteeism when required. All staff working with the children have the required qualifications in childcare. Staff engage in continuous professional development training on an ongoing and regular basis.

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.

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 information furnished by the registered provider to the Office of the Early Years Inspectorate.

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.
- (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.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The manager was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.
- (b) During the period of the inspection, the manager was present and the staff roster indicated that this person or their deputy were always available on the premises.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and roles and responsibilities of each employee.
- (2) Since the previous inspection on the 17th of April there were no new staff employed in the service.
- (a) Two written and validated references were available for all members of staff employed to work at the service. These were checked on last inspection.
- (b) References were submitted by staff from either their past employers or from other reputable sources.
- (c) The Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were viewed on last inspection and all were dated within the last 3 years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for 6 staff members who had resided outside of Ireland for longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (3) All of the above documentation was furnished to the registered provider prior to each new staff member taking up employment at the facility.
- (4) All staff had appropriate childcare qualifications and proof of these qualifications were available in each staff file.

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

The services policy on Accidents and Incidents was reviewed. The policy outlined the measures to be taken to prevent accidents and incidents. It sets out the procedures to be followed when an accident or an incident involving a preschool child occurs while the child is attending the service. It outlines the steps that are to be taken to contact the parent of the child or the emergency services if necessary. It describes how information is recorded, documented and stored regarding accidents and incidents. It outlines the risk assessment procedures to be taken following an incident and accident occurring in the service. The record of a detailed risk assessment was available following a recent incident.

The services policy on Outdoor play was reviewed. It detailed the measures to facilitate outdoor play on the premises. It described the outdoor play opportunities available. It set out how children were supervised during outdoor play. It also set out the procedures for carrying out risk assessments in all outdoor spaces. It set out the safety requirements for all outdoor play areas. This policy was recently reviewed. All access and exit gates were included on the checklist for the risk assessments carried out daily in the outdoor spaces. Following a recent assessment the steel gates located outside the timber exit gates remains closed while the service is operational.

This services Risk Management policy was also reviewed. This policy outlined the procedures to assess any potential risk to the safety of the preschool child attending and to determine measures to either eliminate the risk or mitigate the risk. It outlined how risk assessments completed by the service were conducted and documented. It stated that the risk assessment record must show the name of the person involved in the risk assessment process. On reviewing the risk assessment list, it was established that the procedure as outlined in the policy was followed.

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) At all times during the period of the inspection the manager ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 14 staff working across 4 rooms with 32 children present in the morning and in the afternoon. There was above the required minimum ratio of staff to children available in all areas of the service. On the 23rd of July 2024 there were 56 preschool children and 15 adults in attendance. The adult child ratio was correct

Additional staff were available to cover for staff breaks /office management. Staff rosters demonstrated there were at least 2 staff on the premises at all times.

art 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 service ensured that the safety of the children was paramount, and the facility was regularly checked to ensure proper safety standards were maintained both internally and externally.

On arrival to the service, the door to the main pre-school was secured and access to the building was controlled from the reception desk. This prevented any unauthorised entry and any unsupervised exit of children from the service. All outdoor play areas were safely secured and were surrounded by high-level walls and steel fencing. The gates to all outdoor areas remained closed at all times. These gates were no longer used as access or as exit areas. Following a review and a risk assessment on safety it was decided that maintenance workers did not carry out any work at the facility while children were in attendance. Children were supervised at all times while outside.

A risk assessment of all areas was carried out on a regular basis. A list of each item checked and the person responsible for carrying out the checks was documented. These lists were signed and dated.

Infection Control:

A high standard of operational hygiene was noted in all areas of the service. A written cleaning record was available showing that all areas internally and externally were cleaned on a regular basis.

All toys, play materials and equipment available to the children were cleaned at the end of each day. No broken toys or equipment were noted on 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

There was a sufficient number of qualified staff available on the premises to ensure adequate supervision at all times. Supervision was primarily by sight and where children were using the toilet independently, they were able to do so with staff in earshot, available to support them if needed.

Direct supervision was observed when children were playing in the outdoor spaces. The layout of the premises both internally and externally allowed for ease of visual supervision while allowing children quiet time and space when they needed it.