

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK045
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Childworld Creche
-------------------------	-------------------

Address of Service:	Our Lady of Lourdes, Greenfields Cross Childers Road, Rosbrien, Co. Limerick
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	V94 KX9V
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	John Bennett
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date of Inspection:	24/10/2023
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	49	PM	36
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne J 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

Childworld Creche is a community full day childcare service located on Childers Road, Greenfield 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 operational Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 5.00pm.

At the time of the inspection there was 49 preschool children registered to attend the service.

The service operates from a single storey premises. There are 4 well developed play rooms and an additional playroom for small group activities available to the children. Sanitary facilities are located adjacent to each room in the service. There were two sleep rooms, one adjacent to the Baby room and one adjacent to Toddler room 2. 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 manager 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. The registered provider does not work in the service.

Staff engage in continuous professional development training and courses 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 24 and 26, however, on inspection additional non-compliances which posed a risk were identified under Regulation 23 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 manager, 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 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)(a) Two written and validated references were available for all staff members employed to work at the service.

(b) References were submitted by staff from either their past employers or from other reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff employed to work at the service.

(d) Police vetting was available for 6 staff members who had resided outside of Ireland for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All staff had childcare qualifications.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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.

On the day of the inspection there were 17 staff working across 4 rooms with 49 children present in the morning and 36 children present in the afternoon. The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained and an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children in each room.

- Baby Room - there were 7 (6mts- 18mts) children and 4 staff present.
- Toddler Room 1 - there were 9 (18mts - 2 years) children and 4 staff present.
- Toddler Room 2 - there were 9 (2-3 years) children and 3 staff present.
- Playschool- there were 24 (2-3) children and 6 staff present.

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.

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

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS:

The healthy eating policy of the service detailed a well-balanced and nutritious menu. The full time cook freshly prepared all meals daily. Dinner consisted of mash, sweetcorn, broccoli, and chopped burgers in a tomato-based sauce. Snack consisted of a selection of fresh fruit.

Drinking water was available throughout the day in each room if a child was thirsty and needed a drink. The children sat together around the tables in their playroom and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food. The staff members sat with the children and offered assistance as needed. Second helpings were offered to each child.

The children who were toilet trained toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it.

Children in nappies were changed regularly by staff whilst following the nappy change policy. Staff were observed to wear disposable gloves and a disposable apron while nappy changing.

Children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times during the day such as after toileting, outdoor play and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water, paper towels and liquid antibacterial soap.

Children could rest and relax as desired throughout the day in each room in the library area on large cushions and on the floor mats. Sleep rooms were located next to the Baby and Toddler rooms. Children under 2 years of age slept in traditional type cots and were observed to be checked by staff every 10 minutes in line with the safe sleep policy of the service.

Children in each room enjoyed freedom of movement within their room and were observed to move freely to the outdoor play area which allowed them to have the choice of playing outside or remaining indoors.

Children were encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. The adults modelled positive behaviour for the children and the children were praised for their good behaviour.

Relationships around children were supported as the core staff in the service had not changed since the last inspection and children were familiar with staff as they used the keyperson system in each room of the service. Staff had a good understanding of the benefits of the use of the keyperson system.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The physical and the material environments of each room in the service was carefully planned to ensure children had lots of opportunities at developing social, emotional, cognitive, physical and interactive skills. Children were busy in all rooms engaged in lots of age-appropriate play activities. In the Baby room there were lots of soft furnishing suitable for long periods of floor activities. Toys and play materials were stored in floor boxes making it easy for children to pick and choose what they wanted to engage with. In Toddler room 1 and 2 there were numerous table-top activities set up, building and construction play areas, art equipment with lots of art easels, paint pots and brushes accessible, messy play areas, sensorial play spaces, imaginative play areas with kitchen areas, home corners and dress up clothes accessible. Toys and equipment were rotated, and internal and external spaces redesigned depending on each child's preferences, interests and abilities.

In the playschool room the interest areas were based on the children emerging interests, their likes and their strengths. An emphasis was placed on open ended materials such as sand, water, painting, colouring and outdoor play.

Children had opportunities to be outside as often as possible and in all weather conditions. The service ensured that each child had the appropriate outdoor clothing to encourage play, fun and experience activities that are solely for the outdoor areas. Opportunities to develop gross motor skills were facilitated outdoors on the play equipment and climbing frames. Mud Kitchens provided opportunity for imaginative play and picnic benches and outdoor seating facilitated tabletop activities outside.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The door leading to the laundry room was wedged open and children could potentially access toxic substances, cleaning materials, the washing machine and the tumble dryer. This posed a safety risk to the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The door to the laundry room is now kept locked.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

No

Summary Comment

The action as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 General safety has been adequately addressed. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Each child on arrival to the service was checked in by a staff member in each designated room. At home time the staff met each parent or guardian and signed the child out of the service. All records were documented in writing.

(3)(a) The front door to the service had a buzzer and staff from inside approved admission to all visitors entering the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(3)(b) There was no record maintained of the following information in relation to persons who visited the service.

- Date.
- Person's name.
- Contact number.
- Purpose of the visit.
- Name of person who approved access.
- Arrival and departure time.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A visitors' book is now in place at reception.

Supporting documentation submitted

No

Summary Comment

The action as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliance identified under Regulation 24 point (3)(b) has been adequately addressed. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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

- (1)(a) Fire drills were carried out monthly. The most recent drill took place on the 03/10/2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises with the most recent service carried out in February and March of 2023.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed on the wall at the entrance to the preschool facility.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and .*

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. Footpaths in the outdoors play areas were dirty with moss and leaves.
 2. The foam covers on the steel bars in the outdoor area off the playschool room were torn and in need of replacement.
 3. The storage box was broken.
 4. The storage area outside was untidy with broken equipment and mop buckets. This would increase the risk of attracting pests to the area.
 5. The slide in the Toddler's outdoor play area was broken.
 6. The sand box in the Toddler outdoor play area was unclean.
 7. The cupboards in each playroom were in a poor state of repair, worn and paint was chipped.
 8. The timber frames in the main outdoor area were worn and in need of maintenance.
 9. The walls in the preschool room were stained and marked.
 10. Ceiling tiles in the nappy changing off the baby room and the breakout room were damaged.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The playground was power hosed and cleaned ahead of the planned time, immediately following the inspection.
2. This area is due for maintenance before Christmas.
3. The storage box has been replaced.
4. The space has been cleared as a requested. The pest control is up to date and no issues have been identified on visits to the service.
5. The damaged slide has been removed.
6. The sand box has been cleaned and incorporated into weekly cleaning schedule.
7. The service plans to replace the cupboards at the Christmas break.
8. The timber frames in the outdoor areas are due for maintenance before Christmas break.
9. The painting of the children's playrooms is an annual scheduled event in line with the service closure .

10. The tiles have been replaced.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the outdoor area powered hosed and clean.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliances identified under Regulation 29, point(d)1 to 10 have been adequately addressed. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.