

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK060		
Name of Service:	Daydreams Childcare		
Address of Service:	The Meadow, Ros Fearna, Murroe, Co. Limerick		
Eircode:	V94 P8A0		
Name of Registered Provider:	Louise Griffith		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	09/06/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	68	PM 54
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick		
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan		
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

Daydreams Creche is private, full day care pre-school service operating from a purpose build premises in Murroe, Co. Limerick. It caters for pre-school children from new born to five years of age. A school aged service is also provided each afternoon. It has a maximum capacity for approximately 80 children. There are 79 pre school children presently on the register.

This service operates from a two-story, purpose-built premises located in a housing estate in the village of Murroe, Co. Limerick. On the ground floor there is a Baby room, a Wobbler room, a Toddler room, a designated sleep room, a kitchen and a dining room and the manager's office. On the first floor there is a Pre-School room and 2 Montessori rooms. Nappy changing and toilet facilities are located within close proximity of each room. There is a large outdoor play area at the rear and the side of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider is the owner and the manager of the service. There are 15 staff employed to work at the facility. All staff have achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. All staff participate in ongoing professional training and development.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19 and 28.

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 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.

(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) A designated person in charge of operating the service 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 designated person in charge was present and the staff roster indicated that this person or their deputy were always available on the premises.
- (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 one staff member who had resided outside of Ireland for longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (3) All vetting procedures were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) All adults working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or an equivalent such qualification.
- (7) All staff were supervised and trained where necessary on
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service.
 - (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
 - (c) Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services Regulations 2016)

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

A detailed policy document was available at the service with a comprehensive list of policies included. This document was available for all parents to read on request. A copy of the policies was emailed to all parents at time of enrolment. The policies were regularly reviewed and updated as required. All staff were informed and updated on any adjustments to the services policies.

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) On the day of the inspection there were 68 pre-school children and 12 adults on the premises. The adult child ratio was correct overall in the facility.

(2) There were 4 preschool children and 1 staff in the Baby Room

There were 10 preschool children and 2 staff in the Wobbler Room

There were 11 preschool children and 2 staff in the Toddler Room

There were 19 preschool children and 3 staff in the Preschool Room

There were 18 preschool children and 2 staff in Montessori Room 1

There were 6 preschool children and 2 staff in Montessori Room 2

Relief staff were available to replace staff while taking meal breaks. A designated person was available to prepare, cook and serve food to all children attended the service.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 14 children's registration forms were reviewed with samples selected from all rooms of the service. There was a record in writing containing the following particulars for each of these children.

- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) Provision to record 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 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 (f) 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 where the family has registered with a general practice.
- (h) Record of each child's immunisation.
- (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

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

(1) The registered providers ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service. This information was shared with parents in the services parent handbook.

- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the persons in charge. A staff identity wall with photos and details of each staff member was displayed close to the entrance door of the service.

- (b) Details of the type of service in operation and the age profile of children for which the facility 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) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10 and were found to be comprehensive and detailed.
- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily. This was recorded manually and electronically.
- (i) Staff rosters were maintained on a daily basis and available for inspection. These correlated with the numbers that were present on the day of inspection.
- (j) The service had a medication administration record template available that could be used in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered at the service
- (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

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:

Healthy eating was promoted throughout the service. Nutritious hot meals and snacks were prepared fresh on site each day and were served at regular intervals. Parents were informed of the menu plan for each week. On the day of the inspection turkey meat balls and pasta was served for the main meal. Children in the baby room were fed in highchairs. For the children who could sit independently, they sat at low level tables in their rooms at mealtimes. A dining room at the service was used by the older children. Throughout the service children had easy access to their drinks at all times and these were taken outside during outdoor play.

Sanitary accommodation was located next to each room in the service. Nappy changing facilities were provided next to the Baby, Wobbler and Toddler room. Two waist high changing units were available. Steps for older children to use the units were provided. All toiletries for the children were safely stored and clearly labelled and were located within easy reach of all staff. Nappy changing policies were clearly displayed on the wall and all practises observed were in line with the procedures in the policy. Sanitary accommodation for the older children was located next to each pre-school room on the first floor.

Each room had a supply of tissues and wipes within easy reach of the children. Lidded bins were easily accessible for the safe disposal of waste.

There were a separate sleep room available with a sufficient number of standard cots accessible at all times to the children in the Baby and Wobbler rooms. Children were closely observed during all sleep periods and all sleep checks were documented in writing. Room temperatures were monitored and air conditioning units were used to ensure safe room temperatures while sleeping. The toddlers over 2 years who required a sleep had access to low level beds. Each child had access to their own bed linen.

Rest areas with soft seating, soft floor coverings, cushions and blankets were accessible throughout the day in each of the rooms at the service. Staff throughout the service encouraged quiet periods during the day to facilitate each child's need for comfort, rest and relaxation.

The children had regular change of environment. They spend long periods of time outdoors in a well-resourced play area to the back and side of the premises. Babies had exclusive access to their own space for safe outdoor play time. A large, sheltered area was provided outside for children to use in all weather conditions. Children were observed wearing sun hats on the day of the inspection and sunscreen was applied on all children 20 minutes before they went outside.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Each room in the service was designed and planned to meet the individual needs of the various age groups. The baby and wobbler rooms had lots of soft floor mats to provide comfort for the children crawling and to facilitate many floor-based activities. Highchairs were available for mealtimes. Comfortable adult seating was accessible in these room to facilitate staff sitting and holding the younger children in these rooms. Toys and equipment were stored on low level open shelving. Baskets of toys were located on the floor of the baby room to make access easy for the children not yet walking.

In the Pre-school and Montessori rooms there were numerous well developed interest areas, building and construction play spaces, art and craft facilities with lots of art easels, paint pots and brushes accessible, messy play areas with sand and water play, imaginative play areas with home corners, dress up clothes and mirrors.

All rooms had library areas with a good variety of reading material. Toys and equipment were rotated, and internal and external spaces redesigned depending on each child's preferences, interests and abilities. Children were encouraged to spend long periods outside. Lots of seating was available outdoors for all children. Tunnels, climbing frames, play houses, slides, swings, ride on toys, rockers and basketball nets, art easels, blackboards were accessible outside. A large, covered area outside provided shelter for the children in all weather conditions.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a current insurance certificate which outlined that adequate insurance was available for 80 preschool children to attend the full day care service. The insurance cover commenced on the 28th of March 2023 and expired on the 27th of March 2024.