

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK126
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Name of Service:	Little Seeds Childcare Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Ltd
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Address of Service:	Moyross Community Hub Moyross Limerick
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Eircode:	V94VONP
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marian Duggan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	03/12/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	73	PM	31
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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

This is a community service which provides sessional, part- time and full day education and care to preschool children. It operates from 08.30hrs to 18.00hrs and is registered to cater for a maximum of 100 children.

The service operates from a purpose-built building in an urban residential area. There are 5 care rooms in operation namely, beetle room, bumble bee room, caterpillar room, ladybird room and butterfly room. There is a dedicated sleep room with cots for children aged less than 2 years. The service has outdoor play areas located in the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment.

Staffing

The service employs 26 staff, staff working directly with the children have childcare qualifications that range from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

There are 2 staff members working in the kitchen with Haccap qualifications.

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, 23 and 27; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 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.

Additional Information

The inspection took place following information received to 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*

(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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge and the deputy person in charge were available on the premises on the day of inspection.
- (2) The person in charge had ensured that each employee working in the service was suitable and competent as the following documents were available on file for all 26 staff members and were reviewed on the day of the inspection.
 - (a) References from the persons past employers and in particular the most recent employer.
 - (b) References from sources other than past employers in the case of a person who had no past employers.
 - (c) Vetting disclosures were received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of 25 of the 26 staff and were dated with in the last three years.
 - (d) Staff who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer that 6 consecutive months had the required police vetting documentation.
- (4) All staff had childcare qualifications ranging from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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

(2) The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained and an adequate number of staff were present.

On 03/12/2024 there were 23 staff working directly with 73 pre-school children in the morning and there were 14 staff working with directly with 31 preschool children in the afternoon.

The following demonstrated the number of children and staff present on 03/12/2024.

- Beetle Room - there were 7 children (1-2 years) and 2 staff present.
- Bumble Bee Room - There were 14 children (2-3 years) and 4 staff present.
- Caterpillar Room - There were 12 children (1.5-2 years) and 4 staff present.
- Ladybird Room - There were 17 children (3-4 years) and 4 staff present.
- Butterfly Room - There were 23 children (3-4 years) and 4 staff present.

Designated staff were appointed for cooking, preparation of meals and administrative duties.

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

(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS

The healthy eating policy of the service was available which supported children and parents to choose healthy foods. Dinner consisted of mince, mashed potatoes, gravy and carrots. Drinking water was available throughout the day if a child was thirsty and needed a drink. The children sat together around the lunch tables with the adults and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food.

The children toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times during the day such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation area with a supply of hot and cold running water, paper towels and liquid antibacterial soap available. To support personal cleanliness and prevent cross infection signs were on display to demonstrate the correct coughing technique to be used by the children. Following on from the last inspection of the service all staff had completed hand washing training with a training agency.

The children could rest and relax as desired in the designated library/quiet areas in each room. There was a designated area downstairs in the hallway called the 'calming cave' where staff spent some quiet time with a child if required. A child was observed in this room supervised by their key person and playing with toys and equipment of their choice.

The children enjoyed freedom of movement within each room and play activities were for the most part child lead. Outdoor play was supported and encouraged in each room and suitable clothing was available for children to play outdoors in poor weather conditions.

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

Sensory play materials such as sand, paint, flour and playdough were in use on the day.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

Staff were observed to be kind, caring and patient in all their interactions with the children. Each child was treated as an individual and had their likes, abilities and natural tendencies understood and respected.

Children could form and maintain secure relationships with the adults through the use of the key person system. Staff were observed to be interested in the children, listened to them and spoke to them using soft tones of voice and positive language, engaging them in conversation and gave each child the opportunity to express themselves. Children's opinions were sought, and their decisions respected which reflected back to them that they were valued.

Photographic evidence of activities undertaken, and art portfolios were available to share with parents and helped support a sense of working in partnership with parents.

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:

1. The Garda vetting disclosure for one staff member was not dated within the last three years as per the regulatory notice EYI-RN12.3 renewal of Garda vetting published by the inspectorate in September 2023 and effective from 01/01/2024.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The Garda vetting disclosure for one staff member has been updated as per the regulatory notice EYI-RN12.3 renewal of Garda vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

The Garda vetting disclosure for one staff member has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet with the requirements of regulation 23.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

(d)

1. The surface of the outdoor play area off the bumble bee room was unclean and contained wet leaves and moss which posed a slipping hazard to both the children and the staff.

2. The ladybird room was not kept in a clean condition in line with the management of infectious disease in childcare facilities.

The cleaning policy was not adhered to as follows.

- The floor covering in the Ladybird room downstairs was in a poor state of repair and was stained in a number of areas particularly near the exit at the double doors.
- The skirting boards behind the shelving were covered in a layer of dust and had not been cleaned.
- The floors underneath shelving contained food debris which had the potential to attract vermin.
- The paint on the walls behind the rubbish bin was in a poor state of repair and appeared dirty.
- The timber surface on the play kitchen was worn and in a poor state of repair.
- The green shelving was unsteady and in a poor state of repair.
- The windowsills in the room were dusty and dirty.
- A timber chair was worn and in a poor state of repair.
- A green table was marked with black stains.
- A set of white shelving was worn and marked.
- A dirty, dusty sweeping brush was stored adjacent to the rubbish bin.

Butterfly room

- The floor was wet behind the wash hand basin in the sanitary accommodation
- The step up used by the children to reach the wash hand basin was dirty.
- The skirting boards in the sanitary accommodation were dirty.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

All outdoor play areas have been cleaned and power hosed.

Weekly cleaning of the outdoor areas will be carried out going forward by the general operators.

A cleaning company has been booked to do a deep clean of the premises in January 2025. This company will do a deep clean every two months.

A painter has been booked for January 2025 to complete all required painting throughout the service.

The timber chair has been removed.

The green shelving unit has been secured and painted.

The sweeping brushes have been removed to a designated storage area.

A new tap has been placed on the sink to address the leaking water.

Daily checklists to examine equipment in need of repair or removal from the service have been completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

No additional documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliances identified.

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

On the day of the inspection staff were observed to supervise the children primarily by sight.

Children who were able to toilet independently were within earshot of staff at all times and were available to help a child if needed.

Children were closely supervised while playing outdoors and while eating.

The layout of each room allowed for visual supervision while also allowing children their own space and quiet time alone.

A documented supervision policy was available.