

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK136				
Name of Service:	Oakleigh Kids Academy				
Address of Service:	Oakleigh Woods, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick				
Eircode:	V94 W7P3				
Name of Registered Provider:	Helena O Neill				
Service type:	Full Day				
Date of Inspection:	31/05/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>45</td> <td>PM</td> <td>32</td> </tr> </table>	AM	45	PM	32
AM	45	PM	32		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate ,Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick				
Inspection undertaken by:	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

This full day care service is located in an urban setting of Limerick city providing care and education to children aged from 6 months to 6 years, including a sessional service from 09.00 hrs. to 12.00 hrs. for 38 weeks of the year.

The service is operating from a two-storey purpose-built facility from Monday to Friday between 07.30 hrs. and 18.30 hrs.

There are five playrooms in operation for the preschool children. The children have access to sanitary accommodation areas, two sleep rooms and outdoor play facilities which are available to the children each day.

A school aged service is available in afternoon in the creche.

Staffing

There were 8 staff working directly with the children in the service . The registered provider and the deputy were available on the premises to assist the staff in the playrooms and cover breaks.

There is a staff member who works in the kitchen preparing snacks and meals.

All staff working with the preschool children have childcare qualifications that range from QQI Level 5 - QQI Level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework document.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19 and 23 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation xx. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) 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

31/05/2024

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the day of the inspection as there was an issue with safety. For further information please refer to Regulation 23 in the body of the report.

04/062024

A response was received which outlined the actions that were taken to rectify the non-compliance.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 registered provider 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 registered provider and the deputy were 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 that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each member of the management team.

(2) Since the last inspection in December 2024 there has been no new staff employed in the service and the staff files all had the required documents in place.

(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. There were 7 staff members who had their Garda vetting renewed in April 2024 in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

(d) Police vetting was available for 1 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

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.

Compliance Information

(1) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children. On the day of the inspection there were 8 staff working directly with 34 preschool children in the service.

The following were the adult child ratio in the service at the time of the unannounced inspection.

Baby room there was 3 babies and 1 staff,

Wobbler room there were 4 children and 1 staff,

Toddler playgroup there were 12 children and 2 staff,

Pre-school Room 1 there were 11 children and 2 staff,

Pre-school Room 2 there were 15 children and 2 staff.

The adult/child ratio in all playrooms was correct and the registered provider and deputy person in charge were available to assist at busy periods and to cover staff break times throughout the day

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 basic and individual care needs of the children was supported and encouraged.

Nutritious meals and snacks were served at regular times but with flexibility. The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable and appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development. The staff were observed sitting with the children during mealtimes encouraging and supporting the children to feed themselves independently and according to their age and stage of development. Children had access to their drinks in the rooms, which were stored within easy reach of all children.

Children had opportunities to be outside as often as possible. Gross motor play was facilitated outdoors on the play equipment and climbing frames in the garden and on the ride on toys in the all-weather surface. Lots of opportunities for children to challenge their own capabilities within safe limits were available.

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

Infection Control:

Since the last inspection the staff had received additional training on the policy on nappy changing and handwashing. The staff and children were observed washing their hand at the appropriate times throughout the day. There was evidence that the policy on infection control was being implemented.

The staff had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the policy on infection control.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The hot water temperatures at the wash hand basin in the disability bathroom was recorded at 53°C. This posed an immediate risk of scalding. Water must be thermostatically controlled to a maximum temperature of 43 °C for children's and staff to use safely.

This was brought to the attention of the person in charge and an immediate action notice was issued onsite. The registered in a correspondence received into the Early Years Inspectorate on the 4th of June 2024 stated that the issue had been addressed. The water temperature was reduced to 43°C.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety: The registered provider has stated in the response that:

The hot water is now thermostatically controlled to ensure the temperature remains below 43°C.

Water temperature checks will be added to the daily health and safety checks for the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photos

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 23 General Safety.