

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH033
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Name of Service:	Trim Community Childcare CLG
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Address of Service:	The Maudlins, Trim, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	C15 Y32F
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marie Daly
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Service type:	Full Day
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Dates of Inspection:	06/11/2023
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Date 2 of Inspection:	07/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	93	PM	54
Day 2	AM	91	PM	67

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Family Resource Centre, Common's Road, Navan, Co. Meath
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Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham, C Tunney, S Taaffe
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Trim Community Childcare CLG is an established community based childcare facility located within the local community in Trim, Co Meath. The childcare centre is managed by Crann Support Group. The childcare service provides full day care, part time and a sessional service to children aged from 0 to 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. There are six care rooms within the building, namely the Nursery Room, Wobbler Room, Toddler Room, Explorers Room, two ECCE Rooms where a sessional service is facilitated in the morning time and where children attending for full day care are facilitated in the afternoon. Additionally, an Outdoor Pre-school is facilitated each morning. The service operates from 07:00 am to 18:30pm Monday to Friday and caters for a maximum of 160 children. Additional facilities include a kitchen, sanitary facilities (nappy changing areas), and sleep rooms. Outdoor areas directly accessible from the care rooms were available in addition to the Outdoor Pre-school. Adequate parking is available to the front of the pre-school.

Staffing

The registered provider is not centre based but is available to staff as required. The registered provider has appointed a manager, and 2 assistant managers to manage the service on a daily basis. In total the service employs 47 staff members, of which, 24 staff members provide direct care to children, 3 of whom also provide AIM support to children, 4 administration staff of which 1 is employed under the community employment scheme, 3 staff are employed to work in the kitchen of which 2 are employed under the community employment scheme, 2 cleaners of which 1 is employed under the community employment scheme, 1 community employment supervisor, 2 maintenance staff that were present on the day of inspection and 1 bus driver. Seven additional staff members are employed to work in the school aged service only. Also, present in the service are 6 students studying childcare who are attending college and are on work placement. Two volunteers also work in the service with the school aged children.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information

(1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) Fifty-five files were reviewed. This included the forty-seven staff employed by the service, six students, and two volunteers.

- (a) & (b) Two written and validated references were available for each of the staff members, students and volunteers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff members, the students and volunteers in the service.
- (d) Police vetting was required and was available for five staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Twenty-seven staff members provided direct care to children, and all held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.
- (6A) Three staff members were employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) A student in the service had police vetting for one country she resided in for more than six consecutive months, a second police vetting was required for this person who had also resided in another jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Corrective Action:

Student's placement was put on hold until police vetting was obtained. Student no longer in the service until this time.

Preventive Action:

Will ensure in future to have police vetting for anyone who lived outside of Ireland for longer than 6 months at one time.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has addressed the noncompliance in Regulation 9.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) On the days of the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

The manager and two assistant managers were available to provide support to the care rooms.

- The **Nursery Room** had 7 children ranging in age from 10 months to 14 months, 6 children attending on full day care basis and 1 child attending on a parttime basis been cared for by 2 staff members. A student was also present.
- The **Wobbler Room** had 13 children ranging in age from 1 year to 2 years, 12 children attending on a full day care basis and 1 child attending on a parttime basis being cared for by 2 adults. A student was also present.
- The **Toddler Room** had 9 children ranging in age from 23 months to 3 years all attending full day care service being cared for by 2 adults. A student was also present.
- The **Explorers Room** had 8 children ranging in age from 2 years to 3 years, 6 children attending full day care service and 2 children attending parttime being cared for by 2 adults. A student was also present.
- The **Red Preschool Room** had 15 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 3 years, of which 11 were attending a full day care service and 4 were attending a sessional service, being cared for by 2 adults.
- The **Green Preschool Room** had 13 children ranging in age from 2 years to 4 years being cared for by 3 adults (1 staff providing AIM support to the room), of which 6 children were attending for full day and 7 children were attending a sessional service.

- The **Outdoor Preschool**: had 28 children ranging in age from 2 years 10 months to 5 years being cared for by 5 adults including 2 adults providing AIM support, of which 17 children were attending for full day care and 11 were attending a sessional service.

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:

- (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

The registered provider ensured that the following was in place

- (h) Details of attendance of children on a daily basis.
- (i) A staff roster was available for the service.
- (j) Medication administered to children was documented with signed parental consent.
- (k) A record of accidents or incidents was available for 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*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The following observations are examples of how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service:

Basic needs:

- Staff were observed to be caring, kind and attentive in their interactions with the children. They were very familiar with the children's preferences and accommodated the children to engage in activities of the children's choosing.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a social occasion with the staff sitting at the tables and engaging the children in conversation thus creating a social and relaxed atmosphere. Children in the Nursery room sat in highchairs in a semi-circle creating a social and interactive time for the children during mealtimes. The children's water bottles were freely available on low level tables in the care rooms for the children to take if thirsty.
- The children were observed to be mostly independent in their toileting needs with the staff providing assistance as required, staff were observed to be responsive to the children's cues, should they need to use the toilet, with discreet supervision and assistance provided to the children when required.
- The personal care needs of the children were attended to promptly by the staff with the children reminded to wash their hands when necessary. Aprons were available for messy play activities and children were supported in putting their coats on independently before they went outside.
- The children had access to comfortable rest area in all the care rooms internally in the service during the day. Rest areas included comfortable couches, chairs, mats and cushions.

Supporting relationships:

- The interactions between the staff and the children were observed to be consistently positive and caring, staff were overheard initiating conversations with the children, responding meaningfully to their verbal and non-verbal cues and providing regular praise and encouragement using gentle tones of voice.
- Children that are new to the service are transitioned into the service for short periods of time initially then this is built up on, this is always in conjunction with parents, so the child's needs are being met.
- There was a consistency in staff provision in the service and the children were very familiar with the staff present and sought them out for comfort and support as required. The staff in turn were very aware of the individual needs of the children.

- Parents and guardians were warmly welcomed to the service as evidenced at collection time. Staff took the opportunity to update parents and children on the children's day in the service, this information was also provided through the device used in the service that updates parents instantly.

Non-Compliance Information

There were no documented individualised plans in place for a number of children in the Outdoor Pre-school and the Green Room who required additional support, in order to identify the children's abilities, needs, preferences and interests, so as to plan for and consistently support each child's engagement and meaningful participation in the service. However, it is acknowledged that all staff members, including those assigned to support these children under the Access and Inclusion Model scheme, were observed engaging warmly and displaying appropriate responsiveness with each child, including these children, during the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Corrective Action

The Individualised plans for the children who require additional support have been filled in by the staff- The preschool assistant manager will be overseeing that these are completed and sent home per term with child.

Preventive Action

We will ensure IEP's are in place form any child who requires one when they start in the service or when needed. This will be overseen by the management team.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate accepts the response and assurances from the registered provider. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises

Compliance Information

(1)(a) In each room and in the Outdoor Pre-school there was adequate facilities for the children to play which accommodated the children's play and facilitated the equipment and materials to be laid out in designated areas to facilitate easy access.

(b) Three cot rooms were available with a total of 21 cots for the children under 2 years who required sleep. Low beds were available for the children over 2 years of age requiring sleep. A system was available to manage linen appropriately. Within the six indoor care rooms there were soft furnishings, mats, and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.

(3)(a) There was a suitable, safe, and secure outdoor spaces to the rear of the premises. Designated outdoor areas directly accessible from the care rooms were available divided by wooden fencing. The surface areas consisted of predominately grass, with small areas of hard surface also. A separate soft surfaced area was available to facilitate the children attending the Red and Green ECCE Rooms.

The pre-school children attending the sessional Outdoor Pre-school had sole use of a spacious enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the premises until 12.30pm each day. This area was predominantly surfaced in natural grass and in soil, apart from a concrete surfaced area in place to the front of the wooden log cabin known as the Wet Room in which children sheltered to change out of their waterproof rain gear at the end of the session.

The front of the Wet Room was fitted with a full-width roller door which facilitated the space to be fully open at the front, providing access for the children and staff members. A paved pathway was in place leading from the Wet Room to the sanitary facilities provided towards the opposite end of the outdoor space. Mature trees, hedging and shrubs provided shelter and defined spaces for activity and play. The established outdoor interest areas included a shop, an outdoor kitchen, a wooden sit-in train, a large water table with pouring attachments, an upright sensory activity station, sit-on fixed spring rocking toys and a polytunnel set up as a pumpkin patch with pumpkins and bales of straw.

Non-Compliance Information

1 (b) Unsuitable sleep facilities were noted as follows

- Children under 2 years of age were observed sleeping on mats that were less than 6cms in depth.
- There was no suitable comfortable rest area available in the in the Outdoor Pre-school should a child wish to rest, relax or take a break from activities during the day.

(3)(a) A wooden play kitchen with four separate units was available in the Outdoor Pre-school but the supportive play materials provided (including pots, pans and stainless-steel basins) were stored separately in a locked storage shed, inaccessible to the children. This did not support the children in initiating and sustaining role play activities and limited opportunities to stimulate and enhance imaginative play experiences.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Corrective Action 1(b)

At the moment we have only 1 child in the Toddler room who is under 2, we have 2 beds with side- we are waiting for mattress's to be delivered for the child to sleep in. When possible, we bring him to the wobbler room to sleep when ratios allow for it.

We have created a suitable rest are in the Seomra for the outdoor children if they would like to take a rest/relax or take a break from activities. This area consists of a wipe clean mat, wipe clean cushions and a wipe clean seated area.

Preventive Action

These beds will be available in the toddler room if there is a child under 2 who wished to sleep.

This area will be available for preschool children going forward and more equipment will be added in due course.

Corrective Action 3(a)

The kitchen materials are taken out before the preschool session starts and made available beside the kitchen wooden area to allow the children to engage in role play and enhance their imaginative play experiences.

Preventive Action

The preschool staff have been made aware to do a walk around the garden before the session starts to ensure all equipment is out and accessible to children. A sign is displayed on the shed as a reminder to take out the kitchen toys/equipment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of a new bed submitted; however, a mattress was not available.

Photographic evidence of the kitchen equipment in the outdoor preschool submitted to Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the noncompliance in relation to the equipment now available for the children in the outdoor area.

The non-compliance relating to provision of suitable sleep facilities for children under 2 years remains outstanding as mattresses are not available for the beds. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service was equipped with adequate and suitable furniture and play equipment and materials to meet the needs of the children as demonstrated by the following examples:

- In the six indoor care rooms the play materials and equipment were positioned on low level shelving to enable the children to select and replace items of interest.
- The care rooms in the service were spacious and enabled the children to move around the rooms freely. The rooms were laid out with areas of interest including, dress up, dolls and buggies, construction areas, jigsaws and arts and crafts areas which supported all areas of development. There was a wide range of natural, recycled and open-ended materials to enhance the children's play experiences.

- Throughout the care rooms there were a broad range of books available to support the children’s language development located alongside comfortable rest areas.
- An appreciation of the environment, plant and animal life and nature were dominant themes in the Outdoor Pre-school. The staff members facilitated the children to explore the area and engage in the natural resources in areas of their own choosing using sticks, twigs, leaves, berries, stones, buckets, mud, off-cuts of wood in varying lengths and shovels and spades under supervision, which fostered the children’s imagination and problem-solving skills. Age-appropriate tables and chairs were provided in the Wet Room for the pre-school children attending the Outdoor Pre-school, with books and art supplies including paint, glue, scissors and paper provided on open shelving in this room. When the sessional Outdoor Pre-school programme had ended at 12.30pm each day the children who were remaining on a full day care and part-time basis ate dinner in the Wet Room. Further play materials including jigsaws and play equipment to support the development of the children’s fine motor skills were provided in lidded sturdy containers in an outdoor storage unit.
- There were outdoors areas available for the care rooms. In the Explorers room and Green room children were facilitated to move between the outdoor and indoor area as they wished. These areas contained a sandpit, sit on toys, trucks and balls.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service had a 4-week menu plan with a variety of dishes ranging from vegetarian, meat and poultry freshly prepared in the service. All food is provided by the service except for the children attending on a sessional basis who brought in their own lunch. There was evidence of a good supply of fresh fruit and vegetables in the kitchen store in addition to a supply of canned and dried foods. Morning snack commences at 10am , dinner was served at 12midday which was chicken Provencal with penne pasta, extra helpings were available if children requested some and afternoon snack was served at 3pm which consisted of creamy rice pudding and dried fruit. Water and milk were the drinks of choice.

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

General Safety:

- The entrance doors leading into the premises were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- The external outdoor play area was secured.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children and the door remained closed throughout.
- A large wooden climbing frame had recently been installed in the outdoor play area from where the Outdoor Pre-school service is conducted each morning, an area which is accessed by pre-school and school aged children each afternoon. However, no child was observed accessing the climbing frame during the inspection and the inspectors were informed that until some remedial work has been completed, including sanding sharp edges and reducing the height of the crash zone at the base of the attached slide, the structure would continue to be made inaccessible to the children to reduce the risk of injury.
- The children attending the Outdoor Pre-school arrived to the service appropriately dressed in waterproof rain gear, wellington boots, hats and gloves in preparation for outdoor play. Staff members in the Outdoor Pre-school demonstrated an awareness of the service's requirement to balance the benefits of risky play against potential injury, particularly on the muddy trails and the raised sloping clay banks that ran along the boundary fencing. In discussion with the inspectors and as observed during the inspection, staff members were aware of the need to provide appropriate supervision when the children were engaging in outdoor play in the natural environment to support their development in relation to confidence, coordination and balance.

Infection Control:

- Warm water (with the exception of the outdoor sanitary accommodation as outlined below) , liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided to support effective hand hygiene in the sanitary accommodation in the service.
- The children were facilitated to wash their hands before eating, after using the toilet, after nappy changing and following messy play.
- Soothers were labelled and stored in personalised containers when not in use. Staff in the care rooms stated that soothers were washed in warm soapy water and sterilized appropriately.
- A container was available to place mouthed toys after use by the young children. Staff in the care rooms stated they are washed in warm soapy water

Administration of Medication:

- The medication administration forms maintained for children who had received medication in the service were accurately completed, demonstrating safe practice. The forms included signed parental consent.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep observations were carried out and documented at 10 minutes intervals, noting each child's position, colour and breathing pattern.
- The 21 cots and mattresses were in a good state of repair. A system was in place to manage sheets and blankets, all sheets noted on cots/low beds were clean.
- Adequate space was left between the cots in the sleep room.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Thermostatically controlled warm water was not available for hand washing at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation provided in the Outdoor Pre-school. The water in the hot taps and the cold taps felt cold to touch. Cold water does not support pre-school children to effectively wash their hands.
2. One of the 3 wash hand basins provided in the Outdoor Pre-school sanitary accommodation was blocked on both days of inspection, with this wash hand basin made inaccessible to the children to avoid further use until repaired. This limited the opportunities for the 28 children in attendance to effectively wash their hands in a timely manner.
3. Paper hand towels used by staff members and children in the Outdoor Pre-school were not always hygienically dispensed as loose rolls of paper towels were provided in the sanitary facilities which were

subjected to repeated handling. This posed a risk of cross-contamination and was inadequate for infection control purposes.

4. Perishable items including meat and dairy products provided from home for the morning snack were stored in the children's bags in the Outdoor Pre-school's Wet Room on the days of inspection, rather than in a fridge. This increased the risk of bacteria multiplying to levels which could result in food contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Infection Control:

Corrective Action

1. We have had a plumber out to look at the water issue and the outdoor preschool toilet taps have hot water available in all three toilets, the preschool staff switch on the fans approx. 1 hour before the preschool session begins in order to make sure there is running hot water available to the children during their preschool session
2. The maintenance team unblocked the sink area, and the staff are aware to put it on the maintenance list if it happens again.
3. Batteries have been supplied and put into the hand towels, so the paper hand towels are not handled repeatedly by staff and children
4. We have a fridge in the Seomra that is being used by the preschool children for their lunches. We also have a second cooler available for the overflow in the Seomra.

Preventive Action

1. The water is checked by staff in the mornings to ensure it has heated up.
2. Staff do regular checks to ensure the taps are running correctly and there are no blockages and if there is a blockage that is reported straight away.
3. Large quantities of batteries are ordered for the hand towel dispensers each month to ensure they are working at all times. They are available at reception for staff to take.
4. This fridge and cooler is available to the preschool until the preschool finishes. It will be available then every year for the preschool children to use every year going forward.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has adequately addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 23.

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) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis.

(3) (a) All persons are approved by an employee prior to entry to the pre-school.

(b) Visitors are announced and approved by an authorised staff member on arrival, the visitors' details are entered into the visitors' book.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) The service provided evidence that a person had up to date First Aid Responders training and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

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) Records are available to show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill was on 24/10/2023.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises. The firefighting equipment were serviced on the day of inspection 10/07/2023. The smoke alarms were last serviced in August 2023.

(4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on the premises.

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 valid insurance certificate for 180 preschool children with an expiry date of 27th March 2024.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The log cabin known as the Wet Room in the Outdoor Pre-school was observed to be overcrowded from 12.30pm to 2.00pm on both days of inspection, when the Outdoor Pre-school sessional programme had ended. This room measured 18.47m² which meets the space requirements for a maximum of 8 pre-school children aged 3 – 6 years attending the service on a part-time or full day care basis. However, on both days of inspection, as confirmed on discussion with staff members and on an examination of the children's attendance records, up to 18 pre-school children attending the service on a part-time or full day care basis are accommodated in this room from 12.30pm to 2.00pm on a daily basis, eating dinner and sometimes engaging in indoor play activities, depending on weather conditions. There was inadequate floor space available for children's play and movement in this space. A separate wooden cabin was provided in the outdoor play area but the furniture provided in this structure consisted of standard sized chairs and tables which were not suitable for pre-school children and furthermore, the play materials and equipment provided were unsuitable for pre-school children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Corrective Action

At 12.30pm when the outdoor preschool session ends, 8 children stay in the wet room and the other children are brought inside to the red room and green room for dinner time. Both rooms indoors cater for 16 children so we have 15 in the red room and 16 in the green room, then 8 in the wet room.

This allows for adequate space to be available for children to engage play and move freely around the room. It also meets the space requirements set out in the regulations.

Preventive Action

All staff working in the preschool are aware that 8 children can have dinner/do activities in the wet room and the other children come indoors. We also have put up a sign to say it holds 8 children after 12.30pm.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider for managing the space requirements for children in the outdoor wet room has been accepted by the Inspectorate. This will also be reviewed at the next inspection.

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