

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH064		
Name of Service:	Giraffe Childcare Limited		
Address of Service:	Athlumney Wood, Navan, Co. Meath		
Eircode:	C15 DP27		
Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time		
Date(s) of Inspection:	06/12/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	66	PM
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co Meath.		
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham & D Murray		
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

Giraffe Childcare Limited is an established childcare facility located within the local community in Navan, Co. Meath. The childcare centre is one of 21 childcare services managed by registered provider. The childcare service provides full day care, part time and a sessional service to children aged 0 to 6 years and school aged. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service operates from 7.15am to 18.45pm.

Staffing

The service employs 20 staff members, of whom 17 provide direct care to children which includes the manager, and 2 deputy managers, also employed are two cleaners, and one chef. On the day of inspection there was 16 staff providing direct care to children which included the manager, and two deputy managers, a cleaner and a cook were also present. The Registered Provider does not work directly with the children; however, area managers are employed who are in contact with staff and available to them when required.

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

The inspection was carried out due to notifications received by the Early Years Inspectorate in relation to incidents in the outdoor area.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 10, 11,20,21,23 and 27. 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 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

The following policies and procedures were reviewed and deemed to be adequate:

- Child Supervision Policy.
- Incident Reporting Policy.
- Supervision of the Outdoor Play Policy

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) During the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct and observed as follows:

- **Wobbler Acacia Room:** Two staff members cared for 8 pre-school children (aged between 1 year and 2 years). All children were attending on full day care.
- **Wobbler Cameroon Room:** Two staff members cared for 10 pre-school children (aged between 1 year 4 months and 1 year 8 months) all children were attending on full day care.
- **Toddler Serengeti Room:** Two staff members cared for 12 pre-school children (aged between 2 years and 3 years) all children were attending on full day care.
- **Toddler Safari Room:** Two staff members cared for 6 preschool children (aged between 1 year 8 months and 2 years 1 month).
- **Pre School Kenya Room:** Two staff members cared for 8 preschool children (aged between 3 years 2 months and 3 years 7 months).
- **Pre School Kilimanjaro Room:** Two staff cared for 16 preschool children (aged between 3 years 5 months and 4 years 1 month).
- **ECCE Madagascar Room:** One staff member cared for 6 preschool children (aged between 4 years 3 months and 4 years 8 months).

The manager and two deputy managers were also available to provide support to the care rooms. (8) Two staff members are present, at all times in the service as required by Regulation 11 (8), confirmed by the staff roster and staff attendance records.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(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

(3) An outdoor space was available to the rear of the service. The space was divided into 2 areas by a wooden fence with a gate. The smaller area was to facilitate the younger age group while the larger area accommodated the older children. The surface area consisted of a low impact surface with a cement pathway. A shed was available for storage of the outdoor equipment.

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 outdoor space for the younger age group had a small activity unit with 1 wide step leading to the slide. Additional equipment included footballs and ride on cars and tricycles. The area for the older age group had a large activity unit with 5 steps leading to a walking tunnel and slide. Additional equipment included ride on tricycles.

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 whole outdoor area was secured by walls and fencing with 2 secure side doors. A risk assessment is carried out of the outdoor area each morning by the manager or deputy manager and documented on a daily risk assessment sheet.
- On the day of inspection children were observed using both activity units which appeared to be age appropriate with regards to height with no risk of falling from the units.

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 inspection children were observed to be adequately supervised in the outdoor area. Both activity units had a staff member present at the end of the slides.