

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH076
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Home from Home Daycare
-------------------------	------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Curragha Rd, Ratoath, Co. Meath
----------------------------	---------------------------------

<b>Eircode:</b>	A85 PP29
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Lesley Harkin
-------------------------------------	---------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional
----------------------	---------------------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	20/01/2025
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	31	PM	28
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	AM Coyle & S Taaffe
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.
---------------------------------	-----------------

### Description of service

Home from Home Daycare is a privately-owned childcare service located on the outskirts of the town of Ratoath, Co Meath accommodating pre-school children aged 1-6 years on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 80 pre-school children from 7.30am to 6.30pm each weekday, with eligible pre-school children facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.30am to 12.30pm for 38 weeks each year. There are 4 care rooms in the service namely the Wobbler room, Toddler room, ECCE year 1 room and the ECCE year 2 room. A care room on the first floor was not in use on the day of inspection, an outdoor play area is located to the rear of the service.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs a service manager to oversee the operational management of the service, supporting a staff team of 10 staff members who work directly with the children, a full-time chef and an office administrator. The registered provider was not present in the service on the day of inspection and does not work directly with the children attending the service.

### Methodology

Tusla 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.

### Additional Information

The inspection was carried out following receipt of a feedback & concerns to Tusla Early Years Inspectorate.

### 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.*

*(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;*

### Compliance Information

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

(b) The service manager was the designated person in charge when the inspectors arrived unannounced at 8.55am on the day of inspection and remained present on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

The files for the registered provider, service manager and 12 staff members were reviewed.

(2)(a) &(b) Two written references were available for the registered provider and 2 validated written references were available for the service manager and 12 staff members whose files were reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider, service manager and 12 staff members. The Garda vetting records reviewed demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for 6 staff members who had resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as adults.

(4) The service manager and 10 core staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(7)(a) The registered provider ensured that employees were supervised and provided with appropriate induction. In discussion with recently appointed staff members the staff members were able to describe the induction process and the system in place regarding the review of the service's policies and procedures.

### 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 relevant to this inspection were requested and reviewed.

- Behaviour management policy
- Safe sleep policy
- Inclusion policy
- Supervision policy
- Nappy changing policy
- Complaints 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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In the Wobbler room, there were 6 children aged 1 year 1 month to 1 year 5 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Toddler room there were 8 children aged 2 years to 2 years 11 months being cared for by 2 and, at times, 3 staff members.
- In the ECCE Year 1 room there were 9 children aged 3 years to 4 years being cared for by 1 staff member during the nominated ECCE time.
- In ECCE Year 2 room there were 8 children aged 4 years 2 months to 4 years 9 months being cared for by 2 staff members.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, as evidenced in staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained in the 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:

- (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;

## Compliance Information

- (1)(g) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with regulation 10, these were provided in hard copies in the service.
- (h) Details of children's attendance including arrival and departure times were recorded electronically on mobile tablet devices and in attendance registers in each care room.
- (i) An up-to-date weekly staff roster was available, and staff sign in records were maintained on a daily basis.

## Non-Compliance Information

The following policy was incomplete and were not in keeping with the requirements of Regulation 10:

The **Nappy changing policy** did not include:

- Children's hands are washed and dried after nappy changing and toileting.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective Action

Registered provider has amended this policy to include that all children's hands will be washed and dried after nappy changing and toileting.

### Preventive Action

A notice has been placed in the bathrooms stating this. Staff have been provided with update Policy and have read and signed off on same.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of nappy changing policy.

## Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service has been reviewed and accepted.

### 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.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) &(b)The following examples demonstrate how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service:

#### Basic needs:

- Overall, in the service, with the exception of the non-compliances listed below, the staff members were observed engaging with the children positively and respectfully during the inspection. When speaking with the children, the staff used appropriate tones of voices.
- Food was prepared and cooked in the service on a daily basis, the children attending the Wobbler room, ECCE room 1 and ECCE room 2 had their dinner served in the dining room in the service. Mealtimes in the service were observed to be sociable and relaxed with staff providing support to children when needed.
- The children's nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently as required, children were brought to the nappy changing area individually and the staff members were observed warmly engaging with the children during these procedures. The children who were toilet trained were encouraged to use the toilet independently with support provided as needed.
- The staff members in the Wobbler room facilitated child led sleep schedules by following children's individual routines and responding to the children's signs of tiredness by placing them to sleep in either of the 2 sleep rooms on the ground floor of the service.

- The children attending the Toddler room were placed to sleep in cots in the sleep room adjacent to the care room when they showed signs of tiredness during the inspection, with one child in this room facilitated to sleep before dinner and the remaining children observed being placed to sleep after dinner or later on in the afternoon depending on their individual sleep needs.
- Some of the children in attendance on the day of inspection were afforded an opportunity to spend time in the outdoor area and were dressed appropriately prior to going outside.

### Supporting relationships:

- Overall, in the service (with the exception of the non-compliances noted below) the staff members were observed speaking warmly to and about the children in their care. Children in the Wobbler room and in the Toddler, room were observed seeking out staff members unprompted and the staff members responded in an affectionate manner. A warm, welcoming and child centred atmosphere was observed in the ECCE year 1 room and the Toddler room as evidenced in the kind and supportive interactions observed taking place between the adults and the children who spoke positively and kindly to and about the children during the inspection.
- The service uses a mobile application to record children's daily routine including meals, sleep times, nappy changes and activities. Parents can access the app in real time, receiving regular updates about their child's experiences in the service.
- Family photographs were displayed on the walls in the care rooms in addition to individual photo books that were created by and for the children attending the ECCE room 1. The availability of family photographs supports the children to develop a sense of belonging and connectedness in the service.
- For children who required additional supports, the inspectors found there were suitable up-dated care plans in place, acknowledging the children's interests, needs and preferences. Additionally, there was documentary evidence available in the service showing that collaboration had taken place between staff members and parents in relation to children who presented with additional needs in the service.

### Physical and material environment:

- With the exception of the non-compliances noted below, play resources and materials were available on low level shelving for the children to take and return materials as they chose. The children demonstrated familiarity with navigating their care environments to access the play materials and resources they chose to play with.

- The Wobbler room contained equipment to provide opportunities for the youngest children in the service to engage in physical activity through self-initiated movement with padded floor mats, wooden wall-mounted activity centres and push-along toys provided to support the children's gross motor development. A large tray-top table containing dried lentils was amongst the materials provided to facilitate sensory play opportunities in the Toddler room.
- Age-appropriate table-top games and play equipment to support the development of the children's fine motor skills were provided in the care rooms. These included jigsaws, a variety of bricks, shape sorters, stacking toys, threading equipment and peg boards. Additionally, a range of specialised Montessori equipment was provided for the children to use in the ECCE room 1.
- The care rooms were laid out in designated areas of interest including resourced home corners with suitable play resources to enable the children to extend their play, construction areas, arts and crafts areas, and rest areas. An adequate number of books were provided in each room to support the children's language development and provide choice for storytelling.
- A hard-surfaced area was provided along the side and rear of the premises which adjoined the outdoor play area which was surfaced with grass and divided into 3 separate areas with a variety of play equipment provided. The largest grassy section contained a large wooden climbing frame with 2 swings and 2 slides attached, a separate swing set, a seesaw, a mature willow tunnel, balance beams, logs and tyres. The second grassy section contained a plastic climbing frame, 2 swings, a slide, self-propel cars and an outdoor kitchen. The third grassy section was designated for use by the youngest children attending the service and contained a low-level plastic climbing frame with slide attached, a plastic playhouse, ride-on toys and sit in self-propel cars. Additionally, a covered outdoor play space was provided immediately adjacent to the dining room and directly accessible from the ECCE 2 room. The area was surfaced with safety tiles, a slide and sensory container were available in the area and the staff members brought play materials outside based on the children's interests. The children attending the ECCE room 1 requested a parachute be brought outside on the day of inspection which they were observed to enjoy playing with.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Basic needs:

1. In both the Wobbler room and Toddler room the children's water bottles were not freely available to the children as they were stored in a box on a raised shelf out of sight and reach of the children.

- This prevented the children from taking a drink spontaneously if they were thirsty during the day, without the assistance of a staff member.

### Physical and material environment:

- In the ECCE Year 2 room it was observed at 11.08am that the open fronts of four shelving units were turned away from the children and placed tightly in against the wall of the room which prevented the children from accessing the materials and play resources contained within, including specialist Montessori equipment, textured balls, plastic cubes, foam shapes, and lidded plastic boxes of coloured rice, dried pasta and tree bark. At 11.35am when these shelving units remained inaccessible in the same position, a staff member informed the inspector that the contents were not made accessible to the children as they were limited to times when the children were engaging in 'work' and additionally "that some of the children don't understand and put them on the floor which makes a lot of work for me to tidy up". It is acknowledged that when the inspector discussed her concerns regarding the unavailability of a broad range of play materials for the children with the staff member, she turned 3 of the 4 shelves around and made their contents available to the children who were then observed to play with the materials with enthusiasm.

(3) A staff member in the ECCE Year 2 room did not use a partnership approach or show positive regard for the children at all times during the inspection. Instead, on a number of occasions this staff member was heard using negative language when engaging with a child using phrases including "I will show you for the last time", "Why do you keep asking..." and "For the last time can you please do your job". This use of negative language towards the child was not supportive and the staff member missed opportunities to provide encouragement and praise to affirm the child in their play and activities and to positively re-direct the child when necessary. It is acknowledged that this staff member's tone of voice was not harsh or raised during the inspection including during these interactions when she heard using negative language.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective Action

##### Basic needs:

- All children's water bottles have been placed at the front of the shelves in the 2 rooms, visible to the children allowing children easy access to water at any time of the day and not stored in a box on the shelf.

### Physical and material environment:

2. Staff working in the ECCE room have been advised that the units in the room are to be turned around and all material available to the children during the ECCE Session. Units with the Montessori materials only will be turned back around at the end of the ECCE session.

### (3)

Registered Provider has spoken to the staff member, she will make every effort to always use positive feedback to the children in her class. She will be more supportive and encouraging to the children and positively redirect the children when necessary. She has suggested some courses that are coming up:

- “Recognising, Understanding and Managing Big Behaviours and Feelings”
- “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Updated Aistear”,

And also, some that are offered during every year:

- “Promoting Positive Behaviour”
- “Aim Diversity, Equality and Inclusion”

The staff member has agreed to attend these. Registered Provider has also asked her to review their Safeguarding Statement and Inclusion Policy. Registered Provider has also recommended that staff member would check out their resource section and see if she might see ideas there to help her in the classroom.

### Preventive Action

#### Basic needs:

1. All staff in the rooms have been informed that the children’s water bottles are to be kept at the front of the shelf at all times. Checks will be carried out to make sure this is carried out.

### Physical and material environment:

2. Notice will be placed in room stating that the units with non- Montessori material is to be available at all times during the day.

### (3)

Registered Provider has spoken to the staff member and reminded her that if she is having any issues or difficulty in the classroom that she is to come to the office so that they can address them and see what they can do to alleviate them.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of children's water bottles in an accessible location.

### Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child has been reviewed and accepted.

## 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-*

*(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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(b) Two separate sleep rooms were provided directly opposite the Wobbler room, one cot room contained 5 cots with the second sleep room accommodating 1 cot. A third separate sleep room with 6 cots was located immediately adjacent to the Toddler room. Stackable beds were available for children aged 2 years and older. The rest areas provided in the care rooms were suitably equipped with mats, cushions and soft seating to facilitate children to relax and rest comfortably if they wished to do so during the day.

(3)(a) The service had a suitable and secure outdoor play area.

## 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 provides all snacks and meals to the children attending on a full day care, a 4-week menu indicating that a varied choice of food is available in the service was on display in the service. The food available on the day of inspection reflected the menu provided.

A breakfast of cereal and milk or toast with butter was available to the children who require breakfast up until 08:45am.

A selection of fresh fruit was provided to the children attending the ECCE year 1 and ECCE year 2 room at 10.00am. Spaghetti Bolognese was served for dinner at 11:15 am for the children attending the Wobbler room and Toddler room, and from 12 midday for the children attending the ECCE year 1 room and ECCE year 2 room. Rice cakes with yogurts were served for tea at 3:15pm.

The children attending the Wobbler room who required formula brought their milk with them from home which was stored in the fridge until required.

### Non-Compliance Information

1. The 4-week menu on display in the service and the food served on the day of inspection demonstrated that the daily nutritional requirements were not always adequately met for children attending the Wobbler room and the Toddler room on a part-time or full day care basis as evidenced in the following findings:
  - The children attending both the Wobbler room and the Toddler room on a full day care basis are provided with the opportunity to eat 3 times per day. The children are provided with breakfast on arrival to the service between 08:15am and 08:45am, dinner is served at 11am – 11:30am and tea is provided at 3:15pm. However, as detailed in the department’s “Nutrition Standards for Early Learning and Care Services”, children attending a service on a full day care basis must be offered at least 2 meals and 2 snacks whilst in attendance.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective Action

1. At the moment, service serve the meals at these times:  
Breakfast: 8:15 am-8:45 am, Dinner: 11:15am -11:45am , Tea: 2:45pm -3:15pm . They can serve another snack, but it would happen after the tea snack, as the parents want the children to eat their dinners at 11:15am. Staff will offer them a snack at 4:00pm.

#### Preventive Action

1. Staff is going to try introducing another snack at 4:00pm and see how that works and if not having a positive response they will try a different time.

### Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 22 – Food and drink has been reviewed and accepted.

### 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 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. Both the front door to the service and the rear door to the garden were accessed using a keypad.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The water temperature in the hot taps did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children on the day of inspection.
- Stairways were fitted with appropriate handrails and children were observed to be appropriately supervised when using the stairs.

##### Infection Control:

- Suitable disposable gloves and aprons were available and observed being used and disposed of by staff members after each individual nappy change.
- Thermostatically controlled running warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were provided in the sanitary accommodation of the service.
- The premises and play materials were in a clean and hygienic condition with up-to-date cleaning schedules available in the service.
- In the Wobbler room bottles of infant formula/ milk pre-prepared by parents were appropriately stored in labelled feeding bottles in the fridge.
- Tissues were available for wiping noses and appropriate hand hygiene practices were observed being undertaken when staff members assisted children to clean their noses.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

##### Safe Sleep:

- All of the children aged less than 2 years had access to sleep in a standard cot on the day of inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. A section of the fence at the rear of the outdoor area was loose and unstable and posed a risk of falling over on a child in the outdoor play area.
2. Standard shaving foam was observed being used to facilitate a play activity for the children in the Toddler room during the inspection with the same shaving foam provided on a shelf with arts and crafts supplies in the ECCE year 2 room. The labelling on the product included the statement 'Keep out of reach of children'. Shaving foam cannot be used for play purposes due to its potential irritant risk to pre-school children.
3. A tall doll's house in the Toddler room was unstable and not safely secured which posed a risk that it could topple over and cause injury to a child.

#### Infection Control:

4. The children in the Wobbler room and the Toddler room did not have their hands washed after they had their nappies changed or before they ate.
5. A staff member was observed not to wash her hands in between each individual nappy change when changing a number of children's nappies in succession. It was observed that this staff member wore new gloves for each nappy change but the lack of hand washing in between nappy changes posed a risk of cross-contamination.
6. Play materials were stored in the sanitary area on the ground floor of the service; sanitary areas are unsuitable for the storage of play materials due to infection control risks.

#### Administration of Medication:

7. Some staff members were vague in relation to managing a child with a high temperature in the service. For example, the inspectors were informed by a number of staff members that they were not authorised to administer temperature-reducing medication to a child should they develop a high temperature in the service and instead, the parents would be contacted to collect the child and take them home. This was at variance with the signed consent sought from and provided by parents on enrolment, authorising staff members to administer temperature-reducing medication to their child if this situation arose in the service. Furthermore, the service's medication administration policy, despite having been updated on 06/03/2024, contained outdated information in relation to the administration of temperature-reducing medication in the service.

8. This was evidenced in the policy statement that written permission for temperature-reducing medication administration was obtained on enrolment but 'this is not being implemented during Covid-19 in keeping with the guidelines.

### Safe Sleep:

9. Staff members in the Wobbler room were observed conducting the children's sleep checks at variance with the service's safe sleep policy. Rather than checking the children directly, the staff members viewed a small monitor in the care room to check the colour, position and breathing pattern of the children who were sleeping in a sleep room across the corridor from the care room. All sleeping children must be physically checked every 10 minutes to include checking the child's colour, breathing and sleeping position.
10. Inadequate space was left between the 6 cots in the sleep room adjoining the Toddler room. Spacing between some cots was found to be 30cm apart, with other cots spaced 40cm apart. This was less than the recommended distance of spacing cots at least 50cm apart. The inadequate space could potentially delay staff from accessing children in the event of an emergency and also increased the risk of cross infection.
11. There was no thermometer available in the sleep room adjoining the Toddler room to ensure that the ambient sleep room temperature was maintained within the recommended safe sleep temperature sleep range of 18 -22°C (when all children are aged 1 year and older). In discussion with the inspector staff members reported that the thermostat setting in the adjoining care room was used to monitor the sleep room temperature, but this was unsafe as the thermostat in use was not located within the sleep room nor did it provide a temperature reading.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective Action

##### General Safety:

1. Registered Provider has contacted a contractor, and they have called out to examine the fencing at the back. They said that it was not rotting and that they will just reinforce the stakes. They are going to carry out this work as soon as possible.
2. All shaving foam has been removed from all the rooms and disposed.
3. The dolls house has been reinforced at the back and has also been attached to the wall.

##### Infection Control:

4. All staff have been reminded that they must wash the children's hands after nappy changing and toileting and also before meals. A 3<sup>rd</sup> staff member will be present to help at these periods.
5. A reminder to staff that they have to wash their hands after every nappy change as well as changing their gloves.
6. All the toys are in containers that are sealed. Staff has moved these containers to under the stairs in the hall.

##### Administration of Medication:

7. Service's existing Administration of Medication policy has been revised, and all staff have received and signed it. Calpol can be administered for a high temperature once parents have been contacted to check that sufficient time has lapsed between doses in case any was given at home.

##### Safe Sleep:

8. Staff are reminded to check the children directly every 10 mins with the help of another staff member if needed.
9. A cot has been removed from the Toddler sleep room.
10. A new thermometer was purchased and placed in the cot room.

#### Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. Staff have been reminded to bring it to the Managements attention if there is any equipment or areas not safe outside in the gardens, i.e. equipment, fencing, trees, etc. A Risk Assessment is carried out every 4/5 weeks in the creche indoor and outdoor spaces to access safety and suitability.

2. Staff will source an acceptable shaving foam that is “child friendly”.
3. Risk assessments are carried out every 4/5 weeks by the office. If in the meantime there are any issue, all staff have been reminded that if any equipment or toys are broken or could cause harm to a child, they are to be thrown out or repaired and the office is to be advised of the same.

### **Infection Control:**

4. A notice put on the white board in both rooms stating when hands are to be washed. Children’s steps have also been made available to help with this procedure.
5. A sign has been placed in both changing rooms to remind staff of washing of hands and changing of gloves between each nappy change.
6. All staff have been informed that the toys are not to be brought into the Wobbler changing area, but placed in their containers and under the stairs in the hall.

### **Administration of Medication:**

7. Policies & Procedures are provided to all staff at their Induction. Key policies will also be pointed out to them.

### **Safe Sleep:**

8. All staff have been advised that this is in their Policy and Procedures and that they must adhere to this. If any room had an issue carrying this out any day, they are to contact the office for help.
9. All staff to make sure that there is adequate space between the cots.
10. Staff advised to inform the office if there are any broken thermometers so that they are replaced immediately.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

1. E mail to fencing company regarding repairs to fence.
2. Photograph of the Dolls house secured to the wall.
3. Copy of risk assessments.
4. Photograph of new storage area.
5. Administration of medication policy.
6. Photograph of thermometer.

### **Summary Comment**

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child has been reviewed and accepted.

## 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 throughout all of the care rooms in the service, the inspectors observed the staff members appropriately supervising the children in attendance, when both indoors and outdoors.

## Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

### Regulation 32 – Complaints

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-*

- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
- (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
- (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b) &(c) A complaints policy was available in the service which outlined the procedure to be followed in the management of complaints within the service.