

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH109		
Name of Service:	Little Angels Playschool		
Address of Service:	22 Rockfield Road, Kells, Co. Meath		
Eircode:	A82 R628		
Name of Registered Provider:	Louise Deighan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	05/05/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Family Resource Centre, Commons Road Navan, Co. Meath.		
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham		
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		

Description of service

Little Angels Playschool provides a sessional service to children from 2-6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). The service operates 2 sessions from 08:50 to 11:50am and from 12:20 to 15:20pm Monday to Friday and caters for 12 pre-school children at any one time.

Staffing

The service is attached to the registered provider's home and consists of 1 care room with sanitary facilities. An outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises.

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 inspections 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered provider had identified a person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present on arrival of the inspector and remained throughout the period of inspection.
- (2) The registered provider and a staff member are employed in the service. These files were reviewed, and the following was noted.
- (a) One validated written reference was available from a past employer.
 - (b) Three validated written reference were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the two staff members.
 - (d) Police vetting was not required as the staff members had not resided outside the state for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 7 and level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (3) The adult/child ratio was correct;
- Two staff members were present with 11 pre-school children (aged between 3 years 3 months to 5 years 2 months).

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

Basic Care Needs:

- The staff spoke to all children in a positive way and listened attentively to each child.
- The staff were observed offering choices to the children, using the child's name, making eye contact and facilitating age appropriate choice. Transitions were handled smoothly with staff giving the children time to complete one activity before starting the next.
- Children who were independent went to the toilet independently due to the close proximity of the sanitary accommodation to the care room. Gentle reminders were given to wash their hands.

Supporting relationships around the children:

- Adults were observed to be patient and kind with the children in their care as they listened attentively and gave each child plenty of time to express their thoughts and questions.
- Children enjoyed participating in show and tell as they took toys or items of interest from home to show and talk about to their peers.

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 care room had areas of interest with some supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts. The play materials and equipment were stored on low-level shelving to facilitate the children to select and replace items of interest independently.

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:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The main door to the service was secured with a bell and the outdoor spaces were enclosed with walls and gates. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.
- All play materials were placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children present in the service.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.

The following infection control measures were observed:

- Liquid soap, paper hand towel and warm water was available at the sinks in the sanitary facilities. The hand washing policy and nappy changing policy were implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times.
- Fridges were available in the care room for the refrigeration of perishable items.

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 persons had up to date First Aid Responders course 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)(b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers serviced on the 18th November 2022 and fire alarm in the premises was serviced on the 18th November 2022.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in conspicuous positions throughout the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (a) Records of fire drills carried out monthly were not available for inspection, the last recorded fire drill took place on the 13th January 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Corrective Action

Fire drills were done just not written down.

Preventive Action

Written Fire drills were sent by email on May 8th and will be recorded monthly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Up to date fire drill records were submitted to the Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider meets the requirements of Regulation 26.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 12 children at any one time with an expiry date of 23rd March 2024.