

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH131			
Name of Service:	Mammy Day Care Ltd			
Address of Service:	Cockhill Road, Stamullen, Co. Meath			
Eircode:	K32 H798			
Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Marie Kelly			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	01/11/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	20
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath			
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms D. Murray			
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

Mammy Day Care is a privately owned service operating since 2007. The service provides full day, part time, sessional and school aged care and education to children from 0 to 12 years. The service operates from 07:45 am to 17:30pm and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE).

The building is a residential property converted and consists of 3 care rooms in the main building and 1 care room in a separate building in the outdoor space. The service also has a cot room, kitchen, sanitary facilities, office, storage, and laundry rooms.

The rooms in the service were as follows:

The **Baby-Wobbler /Toddler room** was divided into 2 areas with shelving.

The Baby /Wobbler area facilitated the care of children from 1 to 2 years.

The Toddler area catered for children from 2 to 3 years.

Pre-school 1,2 &3 rooms provides care and education for children from 2 years 8 months to school going age.

On the day of inspection due to it being a mid-term break there were not ECCE sessional service being provided as a result Pre-school 2 room was used for school aged children and Pre-school 3 room was not in operation.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 13 childcare staff and a cook. On the day of the inspection there was the registered provider, 6 childcare staff and a cook present. One staff member was solely working with the school aged children. Two additional staff members commenced work at 12am, one of these staff members provided cover until 2pm.

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 inspector wish to acknowledge the co-operation 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

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

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

(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) (a)&(b) Thirty validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for 15 staff members.

(d) Police vetting's were available for three staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Fourteen childcare staff members had 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) Two staff members were employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

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 the inspection there were 5 childcare staff working directly with the 22 pre-school children attending the service. Two additional staff members commence work at 12 am. The registered provider was available to provide support to the care rooms as needed.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection.

The rooms were as follows:

The Baby-Wobbler area of the room had 5 children ranging in age from 1 to 2 years being cared for by 1 adult. The registered provider provided assistance to this room as needed.

The Toddler area of the room had 7 children ranging in age from 2 to 3 years being cared for by 2 adults.

Pre-school 1 room had 10 children ranging in age from 2 years 10 months to 4 years 6 months being cared for by 2 adults.

Pre-school 2 room was used for school aged children.

Pre-school 3 room was closed.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster the registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- The staff members in all care rooms were observed encouraging and collaborating with children in their play activities. They used welcoming facial expressions and gentle vocal tones when engaging with the children and showed a keen interest in what each child was doing.
- Children individual needs were met with additional care, attention and supervision given as required. In the Baby/Wobbler and Toddler room a child who was upset was picked up and nurtured and cuddled until he was ready to settle to sleep. In Pre-school 1 room children were encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, hand washing, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.

- Staff members were observed changing children’s nappies regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions during direct care.
- The staff members sat and chatted with the children at mealtimes, helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.
- The service embraces outdoor play and learning. Children were observed become involved in meaningful, sustained play experiences with both their peers and staff members.
- Transitions were handled smoothly with staff members giving the children ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.

Supporting relationships around children:

- A record was kept in the Baby-Wobbler /Toddler room of nappy changes, sleep times, meals and issues pertaining to each child as occurred during the day and this information was passed on to parents or guardians by an electronic tablet device.
- The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs displayed on “The Family Wall” in the care rooms which gave a sense of identity and belonging. Overall, the children appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.

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.
- (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)(b) Cosy areas consisting of mats, cushions and soft furnishings were available in all care rooms should a child needed to take a break from activities and rest. A cot room was available off the Baby-Wobbler area with 5 standard cots for the younger age group who required sleep. The older children requiring sleep were accommodated on sleep mats in the Toddler area of the room.

(3)(a) There was a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to the rear of the premises. The area was divided into 4 spaces by plastic fencing. The surface areas consisted of an artificial grass covering.

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 rooms were well resourced with play materials and equipment which were laid out in areas of interest which were spacious and uncluttered. The play materials and equipment incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts, a range of suitable toys and books which were easily accessible on open shelving at their height.
- Equipment in the outdoor spaces included slides, ride on toys, play garage, rockers, sand table, dolls house, activity fence with pots and pans, basketball stand, mud kitchens, planting boxes, activity unit, with a slide, tyres and building blocks. Two partially sheltered areas permitted outdoor play in all types of weather.

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 food ranging from meat, poultry, vegetarian and fish dishes. The children attending the service on an ECCE basis brought their own lunches. All food was provided for the children availing of the full day care service. On the day of inspection breakfast of cereal and toast was available from 08:00 to 09:00am. A morning snack of toast and banana was served at 10:30am. The main meal of the day was served at 12:00am which consisted of pasta carbonara with bacon. An alternative meal of spaghetti bolognese was also available. An afternoon snack of fruit, rice cakes or bread sticks was served at 14:00 pm with a later snack of chicken sandwiches provided before leaving for home. 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 following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- The side gate to the outdoor spaces was secured by 2 locks and the main door to the service was secured by a buzzer system. 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 cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- All furniture and display units had a stable base with no risk of toppling identified.

Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- The hand washing policy and nappy changing policy were implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times. Warm running water was available in the children's sanitary facilities, along with a supply of liquid soap and hand paper towel for effective hand washing.

Safe Sleep:

Safe sleep practices were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- Temperature of the cot room was maintained between 16 to 20°C and between 18 to 22°C in the Toddler area of the room while children were sleeping. A thermometer was available in the cot room to monitor the temperature.
- A sleep log recording the position, colour and breathing pattern was recorded at 10 minutes intervals on all sleeping children. Children over 2 years who were sleeping on mats had adults supervising in the room at all times.
- Block out blinds were available which created an atmosphere conducive to sleep.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The following areas in the service needed painting as the paint was chipped with some wood never painted.

Pre-school 1 room:

- The yellow and green stand-alone shelves and the red windowsills had paint chipped.
- The book stand was raw wood with visible cello tape marks.

The Baby-Wobbler /Toddler room:

- The paint was chipped on the following items:
 - yellow windowsills .
 - skirting boards.
 - Door and architrave into the cot room.
 - Red gate separating the Baby-Wobbler /Toddler room.

Pre-school 3 room:

- The skirting boards was raw wood.

These areas do not provide a smooth surface for adequate cleaning.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1.All the areas that had chipped paint have now been painted. The registered provider will audit the service on a regular basis to ensure that all area have a smooth finish which is adequate for effective cleaning.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of all areas painted.

Summary Comment

The registered providers in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan has addressed the non-compliance for Regulation 23 Infection Control.

The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

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 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)(a) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 17/10/2023.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced on the 31/09/2023. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 19/12/2022.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.

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 55 children at any one time attending for full day care. The policy showed that the service was insured from 12/05/2023 to the 27/03/2024.