

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH134		
Name of Service:	Millview Childcare		
Address of Service:	Unit 5 Millview, Fairyhouse Road, Ratoath, Co. Meath		
Eircode:	A85 W642		
Name of Registered Provider:	Frank Reynolds , Mary Reynolds		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	06/07/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM 16
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath		
Inspection undertaken by:	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

Millview Childcare is a privately owned childcare facility established in 2012. This service provides full day care, part-time and sessional care to pre-school children from 0 to 6years. A school aged service is also provided. The service operates from 8am -6pm and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). The service is purpose build and is situated in a residential area. The service has 3 care rooms in the main building, and an additional room in the outdoor space, office, kitchen/dining area, cot room and sanitary facilities.

The rooms in the service were as follows:

The Little Monkeys room facilitates the care of children from 1 to 2 years 7 months.

The Little Adventurers room accommodates children from 2 years 8 months to 4 years. This room was not in use on the day of inspection.

Little Explorers room provided care and education to children from 3 to 6 years.

An additional room in the outdoor area was not in used as a care room on the day of inspection but instead it was used for storage.

An outdoor space is located to the rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered providers employ 1 manager, 1 deputy person in charge, 7 childcare staff and a cook. Present on the day of inspection was the manager, deputy person in charge, 4 childcare staff and the cook. The registered providers do not work in the service.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,20,21,22,23,25,26 and 28. 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of manager, 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.

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.
- (c) A clear management structure was outlined in the entrance hall of the service.
- (2) All staff files were reviewed and the following was noted:
- (a) & (b) Twenty validated written references were available.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for all staff.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for 5 staff members who had resided outside the state for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) All 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.

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, 1 manager ,deputy person in charge and 4 staff working directly with the 16 children attending the service. The manager and deputy person in charge were available to provide support to the care rooms as needed.
- (2) The following adult to child ratios were observed on the day of inspection:
- The Little Monkeys room** had 2 adults with 8 children ranging in age from 1 to 2 years 7 months all attending on a full day care basis.
- Little Explorers room** had 2 adults with 8 children ranging in age from 3 to 6 years all attending on a full day care basis. Two school aged children were also present in this room.
- (8) (a) According to the staff roster 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 spoke to all children in a positive way and listened attentively to each child. The adults were observed promoting positive behaviour and supported children to find positive solutions when they experienced challenge in sharing play equipment and materials. The children appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment and sought out staff members for comfort and reassurance.
- The children in both care rooms who became upset were nurtured and cuddled until they were ready to re-join their group.
- Children had their nappies changed regularly and in a timely manner. Older children were encouraged to be independent with personal hygiene with assistance provided as required.
- The staff members were observed sitting and chatted with the children at mealtimes, helping the children when required.
- All children enjoying meaningful, sustained play with tabletop activities, art and crafts and free playing both indoor and outdoor with lots of conversation and laughter observed.
- Transitions were handled smoothly in both care rooms with staff giving the children ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.

Supporting relationships around children:

- Staff and parents worked in partnership within the service. The service used a softwear technology application to provide daily information to parents regarding their child and updates on the daily operations of the service.
- Staff members stated that the children decided the theme of the week which was "Free Art". Children were observed in the Little Explorers room being totally engaged in doing imaginary free art on a large piece of cardboard on the floor with great enthusiasm.
- Many children demonstrated a sense of pride in their success and were observed calling on staff members to share their achievements which was reciprocated.

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) Adequate facilities for rest were provided in the service for the number and age range of children attending. A cot room off the Little Monkeys room had 3 standard cots and the older children were facilitated to sleep on stackable beds which were placed on the floor of the care room. All cots were observed to be in good condition with appropriately fitting mattresses. Within both care rooms there were large couches with cushions should a child need to rest or take a break from activities during the day.

(3)(a) There was a large fully enclosed outdoor play area provided to the rear of the premises. The outdoor area had an artificial grass surface and a partially sheltered area which permitted outdoor play in all types of weather.

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

- Both care rooms were well resourced with play materials and equipment which were laid out in interest areas 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 which supported children to select and become involved in meaningful, sustained play experiences.
- The equipment in the outdoor area included a kitchen area, blackboard, ride on tractor, play cars, rocker and tricycles, climbing tunnel, hammock, climbing board and plastic slides.

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 3-week menu plan with a variety of dishes ranging from meat, fish and poultry prepared onsite by the cook. On the day of inspection, the children had a variety of cereals for breakfast. Morning snack at 11am consisted of waffles, crackers and yogurts. Vegetable soup and bread was served between 12:00 to 12:30pm The main meal of the day was served at 2:45pm which consisted of meatballs, mash potatoes and broccoli. Apple bread was served for afternoon snack before leaving for home. Water and milk were the drinks of choice. The children in the Little Explorers room brought their own healthy lunches from home.

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:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The main door to the service was secured with a buzzer system and the outdoor space was enclosed and secured. 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.
- An indoor and outdoor risk assessment was conducted on a daily basis.

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 area, along with a supply of liquid soap and hand paper towel for effective hand washing.
- The service was clean with cleaning schedules maintained on a daily basis. Tables were cleaned after activities before meals.
- Fridges were available for the perishable items in the children's lunch boxes.

Safe Sleep:

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

- A thermometer was available in the cot room to ensure the temperature of the room was maintained between 16 to 20⁰C while children were sleeping.
- A sleep log on each child recording the position, colour and breathing pattern was recorded at 10 minutes intervals.
- Block out blinds were available which created an atmosphere conducive to sleep.

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 08/06/2023.
- (b) A record was maintained of the mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 21/03/2023. The fire fighting equipment was last serviced on 27/06/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in 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 ensured that the service was adequately insured for 60 children at any one time attending for full day care. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2023 to 27/03/2024.