

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH194
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Name of Service:	The Little Kingdom Daycare
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Address of Service:	Newtown, Beauparc, Navan, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	C15 E671
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sharon Brereton
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	08/10/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath C15 CP23
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
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Description of service

The Little Kingdom Daycare Service is established since 2007, the service is situated in a rural setting. The service provides full day care, part-time day care and sessional service for children from 2 to 6 years. The service caters for up to 27 pre-school children and operates from 08.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs. The service comprises of 1 pre-school room with open access to two other rooms where areas of interest are developed, a kitchenette area within the main playroom and children's sanitary accommodation. The outdoor play area is located at the back of the service with direct access from the main pre -school room.

Staffing

Four staff are employed in the service including the registered provider. All the staff provide direct care to the children. All staff members, holds at least a major award at level 5 childcare qualification

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 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.

(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.

Six staff files were reviewed.

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

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the 6 adults. Garda vetting was obtained within the three-year timeframe for all staff members as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member resided outside the state for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All 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 inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The adult/child ratio was correct;

Six adults (two staff providing AIM support) cared for 27 children, 9 children attending full day care, 4 children attending part-time care and 14 attending a sessional service (aged between 2 years to 4 years).

(8) (a) According to the registered provider, the manager 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

Basic Needs of the Children

- Children's individual needs were met with additional care, attention and supervision given as required. Children rotated between their care rooms and the outdoor spaces during the day.
- Staff members were observed changing children's nappies regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions during direct care. Older 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.
- Children were observed enjoying meaningful play with tabletop activities, art and crafts and free playing with lots of conversation observed.
- The staff members sat and chatted with the children at mealtimes, helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.

Supporting relationships around children:

- Children and parents were greeted at drop off and collection with friendly conversation overheard.
- Staff always used nice soft tones when interacting with the children. Children who became upset were comforted and always reassured, they sought out staff and staff responded warmly.

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, or

Compliance Information

(1)(b) Cosy areas consisting of soft seating/mats were available if a child needed to take a break from activities and rest. Children were accommodated to sleep on stackable beds in the Busy Bees room, if required.

(3)(a) The outdoor space was enclosed with fencing and a secure gate. The surface area consisted of grass, bark (under the swings) and a pebble area.

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 play materials and play equipment in the care rooms were visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supported children to have choices in selecting materials and equipment to play with. Tables and chairs were appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-school children attending the specific care rooms. The care rooms were well resourced and had areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys.
- Equipment in the outdoor areas included wooden benches and building blocks, push/pull toys and ride on cars and trikes, two play kitchens, water tray, digging area and swings. A covered area was available to

facilitate children to enjoy outdoor play in all-weather types. A storage shed for play equipment was available.

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 menu plan with a selection of meals ranging from meat, fish and poultry with a variety of snacks. For the children attending the service on a full day care basis, breakfast was available from 8:00am to 9:30am consisting of a choice of cereals and toast. At 10.45-11.00am children had a morning snack taken in from home consisting of mainly yogurts, fruit and sandwiches. The main meal of the day was served at 13.00pm consisting of waffles, fish cakes and peas. Evening tea was served at 15.30pm and consisted of ham and cheese rolls. Children drank water from their own beakers or cups which were refilled as required.

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 door into the service was secured and controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. The staff members completed indoor and outdoor risk assessments daily to promptly manage any risk(s) identified.

Infection Control:

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted units, were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established

and observed. Nappy changing was carried out, as observed, in line with the nappy change policy of the service. Gloves, plastic aprons, were available for hygienic nappy changing practices. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues, nappies and paper towel. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for all room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Safe Sleep:

Staff advised the inspectors that 10-minute sleep check observations were completed on all sleeping children including position and breathing of sleeping children in their care was documented. The sleep room was ventilated by means of openable windows. The library area of the room was used to place sleep mats for children to sleep.

Non-Compliance Information

Safe Sleep:

Staff documentation for sleeping children did not include to check a child's colour while sleeping.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The sleeping log now includes checking the child's colour while sleeping.

This log will be used on all children while they are sleeping.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of new logbook which includes the child's colour was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider addresses the noncompliance in Regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained for the pre-school rooms.

(3) (a)(b) The registered provider ensured that entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.

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 record was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment on the premises. The fire extinguishers were last serviced on the 12/04/2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) A record of maintenance of the smoke alarms was not available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The smoke alarm in the service has been serviced on the 1/12/2024.

The registered provider will ensure the smoke alarms continue to be serviced yearly.

Supporting documentation submitted

The maintenance certificate for the smoke alarms in the service has been submitted to the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has addressed the noncompliance in 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 pre-school service is adequately insured for 27 children, expiry date on the insurance certificate was dated March 2025.