

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN023		
Name of Service:	Edenbeag Childcare Centre		
Address of Service:	Rarutragh, Edenmore, Emyvale2, Co. Monaghan		
Eircode:	H18 Y832		
Name of Registered Provider:	Aoife McKenna		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	10/12/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	45	PM 31
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child Wellbeing Centre Castleblayney Co. Monaghan		
Inspection undertaken by:	M. Flood & AM. Cunningham		
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Edenbeag Childcare was established in 1999 and operates as a community-based childcare service. It provides Sessional, Part-time day care and Full day care for children aged 0-6 years. The service currently provides care for a maximum capacity of 78 pre-school children and operates from 07.45am - 5.30pm Monday - Friday.

The service is located in a rural area and operates from a purpose-built premises. It consists of 4 care rooms, 2 dedicated sleep rooms, sanitary accommodation and access to 3 separate outdoor play areas. The Baby Room, the Toddler Room and the Senior Preschool Room are located in the main building and the Junior Preschool Room is located in a separate building, in the outdoor area. There is an accessible car park across the road from the service and road-side parking for drop off and collection.

Staffing

There are 24 staff employed in the service including the following:

- Seventeen childcare staff who work directly with the pre-school children, that includes the service manager and staff who provide relief in the service.
- Seven staff members who are employed to carry out catering and cleaning duties, a caretaker, administrative duties and staff for the school aged 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 and safety. 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the service 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) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and named deputy person to deputise as required. The person in charge and deputy person were on the premises when the inspectors arrived at the premises and were present throughout the inspection.

(c) When questioned staff were familiar with the management structure within the service and the roles and responsibilities of the various staff members.

(2) Twenty-four staff files were reviewed including; the service manager, sixteen childcare staff and 7 ancillary staff

The following were observed:

(a) & (b)

- There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for all 24 members of staff.

(c) A processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for each of the 24 members of staff. The service also adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years

(d) International police vetting was available for 1 out of 2 staff who had resided outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that 17 members of staff, who work directly with the pre-school children held at least the minimum required level 5 Childcare Qualification

Non-Compliance Information

The following documents were not available and were not in place prior to the staff member commencing in the service;

(2)(d) Documentary evidence of international police vetting was not available for one staff member who had resided outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

The staff members international policy vetting has been applied for and submitted to the Office of the Early Years inspectorate.

The registered provider will check all staff members CVs for any period of employment in a foreign country plus the staff files checklist has been updated to include international police vetting if necessary, previously the checklist only included Garda vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence of the processed international police vetting.

Summary Comment

The service manager submitted details of the corrective and preventative actions taken in the service to address the non-compliance. Based on this information the non-compliance under Regulation 9 has been addressed

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 at 10.20am and remained so throughout the inspection.

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

- In the Baby Room there were 6 children aged 8 months to 1 year and 5 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Toddler Room there were 8 children aged 1 to 2 years being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Junior Preschool Room there were 13 children aged 3 to 4 years being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Senior Preschool Room there were 18 children aged 3 to 4 years being cared for by 2 staff members.

Four additional members of staff were present in the service. The service manager and deputy person in charge also provided assistance in the care rooms for nappy changing and to cover staff break times. Two other staff members were engaged in catering and administrative duties.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, verified by staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained at the service.

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.

Compliance Information

There were 4 rooms in operation on the day of the inspection: namely the Baby Room, Toddler Room, Junior Preschool Room and Senior Preschool Room.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service:

BASIC NEEDS:

- In the Baby Room, individual child-led sleep needs were facilitated in the service as the staff followed the children's routines. In the Toddler Room children who required a sleep had their sleep needs met after their dinner when the room converted to a sleep area.
- Nappies were changed regularly and in a timely manner with pleasant interactions observed between children and staff. The children who were toilet trained were encouraged to be independent with toileting. Discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children after toileting.
- A homemade dinner consisting of spaghetti Bolognese was served to the children staying on a full day care basis. Assistance was given to the younger children who required feeding. Bibs were put on the younger children before meals and hands and faces cleaned appropriately after the meals. Staff were

observed to sit with the older children at mealtimes and this time was used to encourage conversations between the children. Consistency of the dinners were observed to be age appropriate throughout all rooms. A variety of snacks were also provided including toast and banana for morning snack and pizzas and fresh fruit for afternoon snack.

- Drinks were available to the children as required. “Hydration stations” were available in the care rooms and the children could access their drinks cups/ bottles as needed. All bottles were prepared at home and appropriately stored in the fridge in the baby Room.
- Throughout the care rooms, children were observed to be provided with sensitive care and nurturing interactions by all staff. A key worker system was in place in the service, and this was on display in the care rooms. It was observed that each staff member had a small group of children assigned to them and the key person took the lead in supporting that child’s transitions, recording their daily activities, maintaining relationships with their families, and documenting their learning and development.
- The children had free movement in the care rooms and most children had a change of environment to the separate outdoor areas located on the premises.

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)

- A suitable comfortable rest area was available in each of the care rooms, with soft seating and soft mats provided, should a child need to take a break from activities during the day. Supportive cushions were also provided for the younger babies during floor play.
- Two separate sleep rooms are provided in the service. One was located off the Baby Room and contained 7 cots. The 2nd sleep room was located off the Toddler Room and contained 5 cots.

- Stackable day beds were available for children who required sleep in the Toddler Room and were set up on the floor at the service's designated sleep time after lunch/dinner.

(3)(a) Outdoor area

The children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area that extends from the front to the rear of the main building and was divided into 3 separate areas:

Area 1: "Our mini garden" was located to the front of the building and was accessed by the children attending the Junior Preschool Room. This area was gated and walled and had concrete paths and an area with an artificial grass surface. A variety of equipment is available for the children to access including; ride on cars, scooters, trikes and a tractor, a mud kitchen, a basketball hoop, a large sit-in wooden car, picnic table and friendship bench.

Area 2 was located to the rear of the building off the Baby Room. The area had a safety mat surface and is enclosed and secured by gates. A number of pieces of age-appropriate play equipment were available including, rockers and ride on equipment such as trikes and bikes, large plastic blocks, a picnic table and 2 wooden playhouses.

Area 3 "The Green Soft Play area" was located to the side of the main building. This area was spacious and had an artificial grass surface. It was secured with fencing and gates. The staff confirmed that running and ball games are played in the area.

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

It was observed that the registered provider has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service including:

General Safety:

- All emergency exits were clear and unobstructed.
- All blind cords in the service were restricted or made inaccessible to the children. Documentary evidence of daily risk assessments was evident in the service.
- Cleaning equipment was stored out of reach of the children.
- All highchairs observed were in good condition and were fitted with a safety harness.
- Medications were observed to be stored in a locked fridge.

Infection Control:

- There was a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and single use paper hand towels available to support effective hand washing in the service.
- Effective hand washing practices were observed during the inspection, after toileting, nappy changing and outdoor play and prior to snack time.
- Good environmental cleaning practices were observed during the inspection, with tables being wiped down prior to lunch, snack times and after activities. Staff when questioned were able to verbalise correct cleaning processes for toys and equipment.
- There were individual lidded storage boxes for the storage of the children's soothers.
- When questioned, the staff confirmed that infant formula bottles were sent in from home ready prepared and were appropriately stored in the fridge.

Safe Sleep:

- Ten-minute physical safe sleep observations were observed to be carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines. The safe sleep guidelines were also on display in the Baby sleep room

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure that all reasonable measures were taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a preschool child in relation to the following:

General Safety:

1. On arrival to the premises the inspectors were able to walk directly into the service as the front door was unlocked.
2. In the outdoor area off the Baby Room the large green rocker was broken and had a sharp serrated edge exposed. This is a potential hazard.

Infection Control:

The following cross infection risks were observed during the inspection:

3. A number of toys were stored in the nappy changing area off the Baby Room e.g. a dolls highchair and a wooden cleaning play set.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The door was repaired by a tradesperson during the inspection visit .

The registered will ensure that any works carried out by a tradesperson are completed and left secure for business purposes, by conducting visual checks and a 'walk around' the property with the tradesperson upon completion of work. This will be reiterated during the next staff meeting due to held mid-late February.

2. The large green locker was removed.

Staff have been informed to remove all broken toys in the outdoor risk assessment and to inform management if replacements are needed in order to ensure adequate resources. This communication will be reiterated during the next staff meeting to be held mid-late February.

Infection Control:

Items were removed from the changing area and thoroughly cleaned before being stored in the storeroom or re-entering circulation into the rooms.

3. Staff were informed that toys or play equipment were not to be stored in the toilet or nappy changing area as it presents an infection control risk. This communication will be reiterated during the next staff meeting to be held mid-late February.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence

Summary Comment

The service manager submitted details of the corrective and preventative actions taken in the service to address the non-compliances. Based on this information the non-compliances under Regulation 23 have been addressed. Implementation and sustainment of the actions detailed will require assessment at the next inspection.

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 firefighting 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 all fire drills which had been completed in the service, the last recorded on 04/12/2024.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated the 06/24 and 24/09/24 respectively.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.