

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN053
Name of Service:	Tiny's Day Nursery Ltd
Address of Service:	Monaghan Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
Eircode:	A75 TP40
Name of Registered Provider:	Lorraine Linton
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
Dates of Inspection:	27/11/2023
Day 2 of Inspection:	30/11/2023

No of pre-school children:	AM	49	PM	26
Day 2	AM	54	PM	-

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No. 18 The Grange, Plantation Walk, Monaghan
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader and S. Taaffe
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

Tiny's Daycare Nursery Ltd is a privately owned service which provides Full day care, Part- time and Sessional care to pre-school children from 0 - 6 years. The maximum number of children that can be accommodated is 100 and the service operates from 07:30 – 18:00 Monday to Friday.

The service operates from the converted basement of an industrial unit in the town of Castleblaney in Co. Monaghan. There is off street parking available for parental drop off and collection. There are 4 care rooms in operation namely Preschool Rooms A and B, the Toddler Room and the Junior Room. A further room, Preschool Room C, is set up as a sleep room for children aged 2 years and older after lunch each day and is also used to accommodate preschool children each afternoon when school aged children are accommodated in Preschool Room A. The ancillary accommodation consists of a kitchen, large sleep room, a relaxation soft area, common room off the Toddler Room and sanitary accommodations with nappy changing facilities. There is an outdoor play area to the front of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs 18 staff, 15 of whom including the registered provider who work directly with the preschool children. The 3 remaining staff are employed - 1 as service cook and also relief in the school age room, 1 in administrative duties and as relief for the rooms and a 3rd adult who works directly with the school age children.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 19, 20, 22, 23, 28 and 32; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 16(1) and 29. 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the days 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) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a system in place to designate a named deputy person to deputise as required. Recruitment of a new service manager was in progress and the successful candidate will become the permanent deputy person in charge. The person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service.

There were 18 staff files presented for inspection.

(2)(a) & (b)

- There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for all 18 members of staff.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda vetting disclosure was available for each of the 18 staff members in the service.

(d) Following a review of the staff files presented on the day of inspection, international police vetting was available for 4 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of greater than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that 14 out of the 16 members of staff, who worked directly with the pre-school children, including the registered provider held at least the minimum required level 5 Childcare Qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) One of the 4 staff members who had lived outside the Irish jurisdiction required international police vetting from a second country and this was not available for inspection.

(4) Two members of staff who worked directly with the preschool children did not have documentary evidence of a minimum Level 5 childcare qualification.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) Police vetting has been obtained from a second country for one of the 4 staff members who had lived outside the Irish jurisdiction.

Going forward, all CV's will be checked by senior management to ensure police vetting has been obtained where necessary.

(4) The registered provider has acknowledged that there is now an official certificate of Childcare Level 5 qualification on file for a member of staff, that was not available on the day of the inspection.

The registered provider has also stated that a staff member present was from the afterschool team and there to assist with Christmas photos and not counted in the ratio on the day of the inspection.

After-school staff who are not certified with a childcare qualification will never be used to cover in rooms as extra help.

Supporting documentation submitted

Staff qualification certificate, Copy police vetting.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate has reviewed the registered provider's response and the non-compliances identified have been addressed. This will be for review at the next inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

Documentary evidence was available of the policies, procedures and statements of the pre-school service. These were available electronically and were available to the staff in the rooms.

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

(2) On day 1 of the inspection when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service the Toddler and Junior Rooms had joined for the day and the following adult: child ratios were observed:

- Three staff in Preschool A with 21 children aged 2 years 6 months to 4 years 7 months. Four of the 21 children in this room were attending the service on a sessional basis on this day of inspection.
- Three staff in Preschool B with 17 children aged 2 years 8 months to 4 years 8 months. Two of the 17 children in this room were attending the service on a sessional basis on this day of inspection.
- Four staff in the Toddler Room with 11 children aged 1 and 1 month to 2 years and 5 months.

The registered provider was also present on the premises and provided support and cover as necessary in the rooms. In addition, there was 1 member of staff present from 9:30 – 4:15 employed as cook and they also provided relief cover in the school age room in the afternoon if required.

Three further members of staff arrived at the service, 1 at 13:10 and 2 staff at 13:30 they were working directly with the 30 school age children present in the afternoon.

Day 2:

The following adult: child ratios were observed:

- Three staff in Preschool A with 22 children aged 2 years 6 months to 4 years 7 months. Three of the 22 children in this room were attending the service on a sessional basis on this day of inspection.
- Three staff in Preschool B with 17 children aged 2 years 8 months to 4 years 8 months. Five of the 17 children in this room were attending the service on a sessional basis on this day of inspection.
- Two staff in the Toddler Room with 8 children aged 1 and 1 month to 2 years and 1 month.
- Two staff in the Junior Room with 10 children aged 2 years to 2 and 4 months.

The registered provider was also present in the service.

(8)(a) Following a review of the available documentation e.g. staff rotas and children’s attendance records, the information demonstrated that the registered provider ensured that there were at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(g) The service nappy changing policy did not detail the requirement for staff to wash the children’s hands after having their nappy changed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(g)

Washing the children’s hands after the staff member’s change their nappy has been added to the Nappy Changing Policy. Additional in-house training was carried out to ensure all staff wash children’s hands at every nappy change.

All new staff will complete nappy changing training, any staff seen to not follow nappy changing protocol will receive additional training.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of nappy changing policy.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate accept the registered provider’s response and the non- compliance identified has been addressed.

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,

Compliance Information

There were 3 rooms in operation on the first day of inspection namely Preschool Rooms 1 and 2 and the Toddler Room and 4 rooms in operation on day 2; namely Preschool Rooms A and B, the Junior Room and the Toddler Room.

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

Basic needs:

- In general in the Toddler Room child-led sleep needs were facilitated in the service as the staff followed the children’s routines and also were alert to signs of tiredness displayed by the children. Children were observed sleeping at various intervals in the sleep room and those that were finding it difficult to settle were nursed by staff members or returned to the care room. Children attending the Preschool Rooms were facilitated to sleep on stackable beds after dinner in Preschool Room C which was set up as a sleep area.
- The children were observed to move freely in the care rooms. The children attending the Preschool Rooms were provided with a change of environment to the outdoor areas during the inspection. Due to the inclement cold weather on day 1 of inspection, the children from the Toddler Room did not get out to the outdoor area. All children were dressed appropriately prior to going outside.
- The toilet trained children were encouraged to be independent with toileting and discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children the various rooms after toileting.
- Nappies were changed regularly and in a timely manner with pleasant interactions observed between children and staff.
- Tissues were available in all the rooms and attention was given to personal care such as nose blowing, brushing hairs, use of bibs for feeding and cleaning faces.

Supporting Relationships

- Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the children in all the rooms. The staff were observed down on the floor with the children in the Toddler Room and were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner. The staff were observed to tell the smaller children what they were going to do “ let’s go here and play on the floor”. “ I will wipe your nose”.

- The staff members in Preschool A and Preschool B demonstrated skilful interaction strategies to support the children’s play, learning and development, as evidenced in occasions when they acted as play partners with the children and supported the children’s participation in their chosen activities.
- The staff members in all rooms were observed displaying anticipation and positive responsiveness when children chose to change or opt out of activities.
- Staff used an electronic application (an ‘App’) to provide information to parents on their child’s care and daily routine in the service on a daily basis. Information shared included details of each child’s personal care routines such as what they ate, when they slept, nappy changes and play activities. The staff also reported that communication with parents is conducted verbally at collection and drop off. Phone calls, email and phone messaging are also used.

Physical and Material Environment

- A variety of age-appropriate materials and equipment were available in each of the preschool rooms that support many areas of development such as fine motor skills, role play, speech and language and sensory development.
- Toys and equipment were positioned on open low-level shelving in all rooms which promoted independence and facilitated choice for the children.
- The four preschool rooms contained a suitable range of play materials and equipment which were appropriate for the age and developmental stage of the children and laid out to accommodate the needs and interests of the children in the rooms. These were stored on open low-level shelves and were freely and readily accessible to the children. In Preschool Rooms A and B a number of tray top activity tables containing materials including sand, water, cones, bells, battery operated lights and strings of glittery tinsel were provided to support sensorial play experiences for the children in attendance. In the Toddler Room staff assisted in accessing any item which a child required assistance with. Interest trays for sensorial play were also observed in use on day 2.

Programme of Activities

- A variety of the children’s art activities were on display throughout the service which included Christmas tree collages, snowmen, free painting and butterfly collage work. A tall colourful decorated cardboard Christmas tree positioned beside an open fireplace scene with Christmas stockings hung from the mantelpiece was on display in Preschool A, all of which had been created by the children during arts and crafts activities.

- The children were observed to engage in a variety of activities that promoted many areas of development including; sensory play, role play, art activities, large and small group time activities and outdoor play.
- Staff reported following the children's emerging interests to support and planning activities.

Non-Compliance Information

1. There was no adult chair for a staff member to sit comfortably and nurse a child. Staff members were observed sitting on the floor nursing a child and then trying to get up off the floor with the child in their arms.
2. In the Toddler Room a child who was displaying signs of tiredness and rubbing their eyes became visibly upset at 13:50. Instead of being placed down to sleep the child was taken to the dining room for dinner and while it is acknowledged the child stopped crying while eating their dinner, they became upset again in the dining room. The child was then taken to the sleep room at 14:17 and promptly settled to sleep.
3. There was no documented individualised plan in place for a child in Preschool A who required additional support. Thereby identifying the child's abilities, needs, preferences and interests, in order to plan for and consistently support the child's engagement and meaningful participation in the service. However, it is acknowledged that all staff members, including the staff member assigned to support this child under the Access and Inclusion Model scheme, were observed engaging warmly and displaying appropriate responsiveness with each child in the room, including this child during the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A sofa was added to the Toddler Room.
2. The registered provider has completed additional in-house training regarding a child's 'signs of tiredness' and the essential need for sufficient sleep for young children. In house training regarding safe sleep and signs of tiredness will be carried out regularly by senior management. Team leaders will monitor their team on an ongoing basis to highlight any team members they feel needs additional training.
3. A care plan has been developed for the child in preschool A.
All new children with additional needs will have a care plan created for them when they commence in the Service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic/documentary evidence of care plan submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response has been accepted and the non-compliances identified in Regulation 19 have been addressed and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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) The children attending Preschool B, the Toddler Room and the Junior Room had access to a suitable soft area for reading or taking a rest when required. These areas consisted of soft matting, cushions, bean bags and small plastic covered sofas.

There was 1 cot room adjacent to the Toddler Room with 12 cots for those children under 2 years of age who required a sleep and 3 daybeds set up for the children over the age of 2 who also required a sleep. Twelve additional daybeds were also available.

Preschool Room C which was accessed directly from Preschool B was unoccupied until after dinner each day. Children aged 2 years and older attending Preschool A and Preschool B who still availed of a daytime nap were facilitated to sleep on stackable beds set up in Preschool C after dinner.

(3)(a) The outdoor area was located to the front of the building and was fully enclosed and gated. The area was surfaced in paving slabs and the children had scheduled access to the space on a daily basis. Play resources and equipment provided included an array of open-ended materials including lengths of timber, tubing and pipes, logs, wooden bricks, balls and wheels; a plastic playhouse; wooden child-sized picnic benches and tables; a plastic kitchen with real pots and pans; two low-level wooden slides; and an activity tray with cars, trucks and trains.

A small lean-to covered area adjoining a wooden storage shed was enclosed by fencing where water play was facilitated. The storage shed contained large plastic lidded storage boxes for the play materials in use and also included skittles, balls, plastic connectors and large wooden shapes, which the inspectors were informed were rotated for use in the outdoor play area on a regular basis to support children's play and learning.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

1. The soft cosy area in the Toddler Room had 2 large beans bags. These are not recommended for use with children under 2 years of age and are a health and safety risk.
2. Some of the cots in the sleep room were too close together with some of them touching and this did not allow for the required 50cm spacing between cots to prevent infection control and is also a health and safety risk.
3. The sleep room was very dark and not adequately lit to allow a staff member adequately to check a sleeping child. Due to the level of darkness in 1 area of the sleep room the inspector did not observe a 4th member of staff in the sleep room assisting with settling the children.
4. One of the cots had an ill-fitting and oversized sheet on the mattress which is a health and safety risk.
5. There was no suitable comfortable rest area available to the children attending Preschool A on either day of inspection, should a pre-school child wish to rest or relax. An adjoining internal room (formerly used as an office) which was directly accessed from Preschool A was designated as a library and rest area containing an adult sized couch and soft furnishings. However, on both days of inspection the door to this room was closed and the high-level door handle was out of reach of the preschool children accommodated in Preschool A. Additionally, the glass panel between the preschool room and the rest area was also positioned above the children's head height which reduced the opportunity for the children to see the space.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)

1. The bean bags were removed from the toddler room.
Bean bags will never be used in the Toddler room again.
2. The cots have been moved apart in the sleep room.
Senior management will continuously monitor with the help of team leaders that cots are always positioned correctly at sleep times.

3. A new light has been installed in the sleep room.
The emergency lights will be checked on the daily risk assessment.
4. The oversized sheet has been removed.
All sheets used within the nursery will be checked at time of purchase by senior management to ensure suitability.
5. On the day of the inspection, the Pre-A cosy corner was out of use due to a planned Christmas photo shoot where the area was set up for this purpose. The registered provider has acknowledged that this was once off event and will never happen again.
The door to this small room will always be open and accessible to children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence, copies of training records.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response was reviewed and the non-compliances identified in Regulation 20 have been addressed and will be for review on the next inspection.

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

Healthy eating was promoted in the service. There was a 2 weekly menu available. Dinner on day 1 was observed to be waffles, sausages and beans and was made by the service cook. Second helpings were available. A morning snack of toast and fruit was provided by the service and the afternoon snack was sent in by the parents. Dinner was of an appropriate consistency for the different age groups. Drinks were freely available in the Preschool Rooms for the children to access. The menu on display demonstrated that meals containing less processed foods than those provided for dinner on the first day of inspection were provided in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

On day 1 of inspection in the Toddler Room the children's drink cups were stored on a tray in the corner of the adjoining dining room and therefore were not readily accessible to the children attending this room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has completed additional in-house training around the importance of children always having access to their water throughout the day. The drinks trays will always stay within the care rooms unless it's mealtimes.

In house training around children's need for water will be carried out regularly by senior management. Team leaders will monitor their team on an ongoing basis to highlight any team members they feel needs additional training

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of training records.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has adequately addressed the non-compliance.

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 entrance doors leading into the premises were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- A door alarm system was in place on the emergency exit doors which facilitated passage through corridors to the public space surrounding the premises. These alarmed doors activated a loud alarm on opening, thereby reducing the risk of children leaving the premises unsupervised.
- The external outdoor play area was secured.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.

- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- The premises, play equipment and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Up-to-date cleaning schedules were on display in the service.
- Appropriate disposable gloves and aprons were available and observed being worn for each individual nappy change.

Safe Sleep:

- The air temperature in Preschool C was monitored and maintained within 18-22°C when children were sleeping, the safe sleep temperature range for sleeping children aged 1 year or older.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the sleep room, one of the cot mattresses did not have a safety label. This is a safety risk.
2. Two small elasticated hair bands were found by the inspector in 1 of the cots, one on the mattress and one under the mattress. These are a safety risk.
3. Some of the equipment in the service had sharp unprotected corners and therefore posed a potential injury hazard for example the wooden shelving in the Toddler Room and the green and white tables in the Junior Room. The registered provider and staff are responsible to ensure that all sharp corners need to be checked and protected at all times.
4. Some of the chairs in the dining room off the Toddler Room were too high for the children attending as it was observed their feet did not touch the ground while sitting on them. One child was observed to climb up onto the table so they could get off the chair as they could not push it back with their feet. This is a safety and potential falls risk.
5. A blind cord in Preschool C was found to have become detached from its restrictor on the first day of inspection. When informed of this potential strangulation hazard by the inspector, the registered provider undertook immediate corrective action and appropriately secured the blind cord in a safe manner.

Infection Control:

6. There was a stain on one of the cot mattresses and this a cross contamination risk and required cleaning.
7. Two soothers were observed inappropriately stored with 1 lying on the floor uncovered under a cot and a second lying uncovered on a raised stage area in the sleep room. This is a cross contamination risk.
8. In the Toddler Room some jigsaw pieces which had been placed in the mouth by some of the younger children were not observed to be removed for cleaning after use. This is an infection control and cross contamination risk.
9. On the first day of inspection the children's hands were not washed when they returned indoors to Preschool B at 14:40 following outdoor play.
10. Although single use paper towels were available, a cloth towel which was damp was provided beside the wash hand basin in the sanitary accommodation adjoining Preschool A. The inspector was informed that cloth towels were sometimes used after painting and messy play activities. As cloth towels harbour germs this posed a risk that the cloth towel provided could become a source of cross contamination.

Safe Sleep:

11. Children sleeping on daybeds in the sleep room adjacent to the Toddler Room and the converted sleep room set up in Preschool C were left unsupervised once they had fallen asleep. A staff member did not remain in the rooms to supervise and ensure the safety of the sleeping children. This is a health and safety risk as if a child woke, they could leave their beds unsupervised and climb, trip, fall, disrupt the sleep of or cause harm to another child.
12. In the sleep room adjacent to the Toddler Room staff carrying out sleep check at various times were observed not to check the room thermometer and therefore the room temperature was not accurately recorded on the sleeping children's sleep logs. For example the inspector recorded the room temperature as 16.7° C and staff were recording a room temperature of 20° C at that time.

Fire Safety:

13. The fire extinguisher in Preschool C was obstructed by a re-positioned wooden play kitchen on the second day of inspection. When informed of this safety hazard, the registered provider undertook immediate corrective measures and returned the play kitchen to its original position, making the fire extinguisher visible and accessible if required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Mattress without label has been removed.
The team have been instructed to never cut safety label off the mattresses.
2. No children will go to bed with any hair accessories in their hair; additional in-house training was carried out to ensure all staff know the dangers of hair accessories for children as they sleep.
In house training around safe sleep will be carried out regularly by senior management. Team leaders will monitor their team on an ongoing basis to highlight any team members they feel needs additional training.
3. Corner protectors were added to the wooden units and small table.
All furniture at time of purchase will be checked by senior management before being added to the care rooms.
4. The chairs were removed from the dining room.
All chairs for children will be checked at the time of purchase by senior management before being added to the care rooms.
5. The blind cord has been altered to prevent being a hazard in the future.
The blind cord will be added to the daily risk assessment.

Infection Control:

6. The mattress has been removed.
Mattresses will be checked by senior management on the full-service quarterly risk assessment.
7. Additional in-house training has been carried out to ensure all soothers are kept in the children's individual sterilized boxes.
In house training around children's soothers will be carried out regularly by senior management. Team leaders will monitor their team on an ongoing basis to highlight any team members they feel needs additional training.
8. Additional in-house training has been carried out to ensure all staff are aware of the dribble box and how it is to be used.
In house training around the use of the dribble box will be carried out regularly by senior management. Team leaders will monitor their team on an ongoing basis to highlight any team members they feel needs additional training.

9. Additional in-house training has been carried out to ensure all staff are aware that children need to wash their hands every time after playing outside, not just before food and after toilet.

In house training around correct hand washing protocol will be carried out regularly by senior management. Team leaders will monitor their team on an ongoing basis to highlight any team members they feel needs additional training.

10. Towels are no longer in use for art activities, the service is now using disposable paper towels. Additional in-house training was carried out to ensure all staff are aware of cross contamination.

No towels will be used within the care rooms.

Safe Sleep:

11. A staff member stays with the children while they sleep, additional in-house training on the important of adequate supervision of all children as they sleep.

In house training around safe sleep will be carried out regularly by senior management. Team leaders will monitor their team on an ongoing basis to highlight any team members they feel needs additional training.

12. Additional in-house training has been carried out to ensure all staff are checking the room temperatures at every sleep check. In house training around Safe Sleep will be carried out regularly by senior management. Team leaders will monitor their team on an ongoing basis to highlight any team members they feel needs additional training.

Fire Safety:

13. Additional in-house training has been carried out to ensure all staff know the importance of easily accessing firefighting equipment.

In house training around firefighting equipment will be carried out regularly by senior management. Team leaders will monitor their team on an ongoing basis to highlight any team members they feel needs additional training. Fire- fighting equipment access is added to the Daily Risk Assessment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of classroom risk assessment submitted, new chairs and copies of staff training records.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the response from the registered provider. The non-compliances identified in Regulation 23 in relation to general safety, infection control, safe sleep and fire safety have been addressed. These will be for review at the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Adequate insurance cover was in place for up to 100 children expiring on the 27/3/24.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. In the Junior Room the small plastic covered sofa was in a state of disrepair as the covering was cracked and torn.
- (e)
2. The service had insufficient toilets to accommodate the number of toilet-trained children attending the service as only 5 toilets were available for use by the pre-children and school aged children. The requirement is that 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin is available for every 11 toilet trained children. The records demonstrated that on some dates in excess of 55 toilet-trained children were in attendance. This was also confirmed by the registered provider.
 3. The service had insufficient toilets to accommodate the staff members employed as only 1 toilet was available for use by the 18 staff members working in the service. The ratio of sanitary accommodation for staff is 1 toilet and wash hand basin for every 8 staff members.

These two non-compliances in relation to Regulation 29(e) were identified on inspection of the service on 12/06/2019 and 14/11/2019. As part of the subsequent corrective action and preventive action response submitted to the Inspectorate, the registered provider outlined proposals to extend the service into the adjoining commercial premises in June 2020 to include the provision of additional sanitary and other ancillary accommodation. To date, this work has not been completed and the regulatory requirement has not been met.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d)
1. The small sofa has been removed.
- (e) 2 and 3. The registered provider is in the process of employing a contractor to make modifications to the sanitary areas adding 2 additional toilets to the main bathroom plus an additional toilet and changing area to the Pre-A classroom.
- As an interim solution, the registered provider has arranged temporary access to other sanitary facilities within the building in order to facilitate an additional 7 staff members.

The Inspectorate has reviewed the registered provider's response in relation to Regulation 29.

The response to 29(d) 1. has addressed the non-compliance identified.

The interim corrective action in relation to Regulation 29(e) point 3 has been accepted and addressed this non-compliance.

The non-compliance in relation to Regulation 29 (e) point 2 remains outstanding and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-*
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*

Compliance Information

The service had a complaints policy which outlined the procedures to be followed for the purpose of making a complaint which was available in the service as a hard and electronic copy. It was also stated that this hard copy was also available to parents and in the parents handbook.