

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015OY060
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Name of Service:	Mie World
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Address of Service:	Church Street, Clara, Co. Offaly
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Eircode:	R35 A3W5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Cornally
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Inspection undertaken by:	D .Molloy
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

Mie World is located on Church Street in the rural town of Clara in Co. Offaly and has been operational since September 2013 and is operated from a converted semidetached two-story town house, formally a domestic dwelling. The ground floor is now used for the sole purpose of operating a childcare service, access to and from the first-floor domestic dwelling is restricted.

The service consists of a reception hall and lobby, an office, two playrooms, a kitchenette, a nappy changing area, and three sanitary accommodations with wash hand basins.

The service provides four separate, secure outdoor play areas to the rear and of the premises.

Car parking is available on the public street at the front of the service.

This sessional service caters for children aged between 2 years to 6 years. The service operates from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9 am and 12 pm. One session is operated daily. Twenty-two preschool children are enrolled in the service.

Staffing

Two adults were present including the person in charge, who were working directly with the pre-school children. All staff members working directly with children attending the service and held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under, Regulation 19 - Health, welfare, and development of child and Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included playroom 1, sanitary accommodations, and the outdoor play area.

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 person in charge, 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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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.

(6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who-

- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and*
- (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date.*

(6A) is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of “paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)” for “paragraphs (5) and (6)”, and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): “

(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 has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.
- (b) The registered provider was not on site during the inspection The designated person in charge were present during the inspection. The person in charge facilitated the inspection and the roster showed that at all times the person in charge was present during the opening hours of the service.
- (2)
- All staff files were reviewed on site on the day of inspection.
- (a) (b)Validated references from staff members’ past employers, in particular the most recent employer was available for review. Validated references from reputable sources were available for review.
- (c) A vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of all-staff member was available for review.
- (d) Police vetting from other police authorities was not required for staff .
- (3)
- Required vetting had been carried out prior to staff member being appointed, assigned, or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4)

All employees held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(6)(a)(b)

Not applicable as no employee had signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016, to the effect that they intended to retire from employment in a pre-school service.

(6A)

No employee was working with children under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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)

Compliance Information

(1)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection. The registered provider ensured that there were sufficient adults working directly with the children and records showed that the adult child ratio was upheld in the service.

(3)

The registered provider had ensured that the adult child ratio was correctly maintained throughout the inspection and records showed that sufficient adults were rostered to work in the service each day.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker, or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

The registered provider had ensured that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations was available on the premises and could be viewed by

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker, or contractor, and
- (c) an authorised person.

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:

A blend of outdoor and indoor exercise and activities was available. Children could avail of fresh air and outdoor play on a daily basis in the outdoor play facility where balancing, sliding, cycling, imaginary play, running and self-directed free play movement were all part of the activities.

Children were supported to become independent and self-caring and were encouraged to take care of their own belongings including hanging up and taking down their coats, opening bags and lunch boxes and tidying up their toys when finished playing with items.

Childrens basic skills, including concentration, hand to eye coordination, team work and cooperation were supported and fostered through play. It was observed that children were all involved in a in a circle time activity where each child balanced a paper cup on a wooden tea rod and were then expected to pass it overhead to the next child which required careful concentration and self-regulation.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

Staff were kind and caring towards children, when a child accidently spilled their drink, this incident was managed in an appropriate manner without causing worry to the child.

It was observed that the children appeared comfortable in the company of staff and mainly the same staff were in the service each day which created continuity of care and an opportunity for children to form relationships with the staff.

A birthday wall celebrates individual birthdays. A “Blooming Birthdays” wall art displayed flowers in flower pots created by the children with each child as a birthday flower.

Stories chosen by the children were read aloud by staff. This activity was interactive and made real by staff and children were absorbed in the tales.

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 entry to the service was secured so as to ensure the safety of the children and the main door was operated on a controlled entry system from inside. The external side gate was secured from inside. The outdoor play area was securely fenced by means of fencing and wall around the perimeters and could be accessed directly from the service.

Refuse bins were stored away from play area and were inaccessible to children.

The oil tank was inaccessible to the children.

A pest control system was in place and was monitored to safeguard against pests.

Cleaning, sanitising products and equipment were stored in a designated locked cupboard out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Staff were familiar with the infection control policy and an up-to-date copy was available on site. The service was clean and well maintained. Children were observed washing their hands regularly and adults were observed offering assistance if necessary.

The service was well ventilated with good air flow.

Fire Safety:

The fire exits were unobstructed.

A notice of the fire assembly point was on display to show fire assembly point in the play area at the back of the service

Outing:

The person in charge stated no outing were undertaken from the service.

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)

A staff members held first aid training and were available to the children attending the pre-school service and up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) certification was available for the staff member.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible location on the premises,

(b) The first aid box was readily available in the service at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of up-to-date insurance cover for the number of children attending the service was available in the service.
The insurance certificate was valid until March 2024.

Part IX - Inspection and Enforcement

Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.

Compliance Information

The person in charge facilitated the inspection and provided access to all information as was required for completion of the inspection.