

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015OY066
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Name of Service:	Mie World
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Address of Service:	Kilbride Gardens, Clara, Co. Offaly
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Eircode:	R35 FF64
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Name of Registered Provider:	Paul Henry, Sinead Cornally
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	01/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	49	PM	42
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, SAP Office, St. Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Inspection undertaken by:	C. O'Connor Hughes & K. Murphy
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

This full day care service offers sessional, part time and full day care places to children. The age range of children that the service is registered to accommodate is 1 to 6 years of age. The service is part of a multiple.

The Early Years' Service operates out of a purpose-built two storey building. On the ground floor, five pre-school rooms namely the wobbler room, toddler room, junior pre-school room, senior pre-school room and the midi room, two sleep rooms, a kitchen and a reception area/office are provided. Outdoor play areas are attached to the rear and front of the service. Onsite parking and set down facilities are provided. The service is situated in a residential area in the town of Clara, County Offaly.

Staffing

The registered providers, ten childcare staff and a cook were present on the 01 May 2024.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered providers, 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.*

(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)

A named person in charge was available in the service. A deputy designated person in charge was available and rostered for work from 13:00 to 17:30.

(b)

The registered providers were present throughout the inspection.

Twenty-one staff files including both the registered providers were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

Thirty-four written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a past employer in respect of nineteen adults.

Two written references were available in respect of both registered providers.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the adults.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was available in respect of one adult who lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

Adults working directly with children as part of the adult to child ratio held qualifications at levels 5 to 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(6)(a)

A staff member present was working directly with children under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM).

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

Four references were not validated by the registered providers in respect of two adults working in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The two outstanding references have been validated.

The roles of general manager, service, manger, deputy manager, and supervisor, have been amended and clarified to separate the administrative tasks from supervisors' tasks, and general budgets from service budgets in response to concerns raised by management that their supervisory and management roles were too broad, and contribute to confusion.

The procedures of the Board of Directors has been amended to include the submission of a supervision report covering the supervision of any issues raised by Tusla for a period of two years. The report will be prepared in the creche by the Deputy Manager, who must physically check for continued compliance rather than verbally check.

Supporting documentation submitted

Validated references submitted x 2

Summary Comment

Evidence submitted and reviewed by the Early Years Inspector met the Regulatory requirement.

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)

The minimum ratio of adults to children were available in the service during the inspection.

(2)

There were forty-nine children attending the service in the morning supervised directly by ten adults and forty-two children in the afternoon supervised directly by eight adults.

(8)(a)

The staff roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

During the period 12:00 – 12:45 in the wobbler, junior toddler and senior toddler rooms the correct adult to child ratios were not maintained during nappy changing and when meals were being served and children were eating.

A third qualified adult was required in each room to maintain the correct adult to child ratios when the second adult left the room to carry out nappy changing.

- Seven children were left in the care of one adult in the wobbler room.
- Ten children were left in the care of one adult in the junior toddler room.
- Eleven children were left in the care of one adult in the senior toddler room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A schedule for nappy changing was tested however it was not workable for the period from 12 to 2. Scheduled nappy changes covering the period from 10 to 11 were set, and staff are asked to anticipate when nappy changes are needed during this time and phone office ten minutes in advance.

A record of the lunch nappy changing schedule and cover has been added in the office and will be monitored for June to ensure compliance.

A notice has been placed above all the nappy changing mats to remind staff not to change nappies if it leaves the room out of ratio, and to ring the office if they need cover.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

Evidence submitted and reviewed by the Early Years Inspector met the Regulatory requirement. This practice will be assessed on the next TUSLA inspection

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:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)

The service kept and maintained written records of information in relation to the service in accordance with Regulation 16 (1)(h)(i)(j) and (k).

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

Information for parents was reviewed and available in a parent handbook in respect of Regulation 16 (1)(a) to (g).

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

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 open to inspection by (a)(b)(c).

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

(1)(a)

The staff were positive towards children and were familiar with each child, their personalities and their daily routine. Nappy changing was carried out regularly and as needed. Good communication was observed between the staff member and child during nappy changing. Children slept in a in a restful atmosphere in the wobbler sleep room and were physically checked by a staff member every ten minutes. Older children were encouraged to be independent as they washed their hands before snack and mealtime. Children went to the toilet independently supervised by staff. Children enjoyed play experiences indoors including free play, table- top activities and outdoor play. Children enjoyed a birthday celebration held in the senior toddler room.

The pre-school rooms were laid out with low level tables and chairs. Materials were available to children on low level shelving that included bricks, blocks, art and craft supplies, animals, jigsaws, dolls and play kitchen utensils. A home area, rest area with books, a farm and a construction area were noted in the pre-school rooms. Children's artwork was displayed.

The child's learning journal depicting their play and work activities had commenced in operation in the pre-school room. A handheld electronic device was used to record the personal care needs of the children in respect of eating, drinking, sleeping, nappy changes and play activities and events that took place during the child's day. This information was then available to parents in real time for observation or comment.

Evidence was available to indicate that the service had commenced short, medium and long-term curriculum planning in line with the Early Childhood curriculum.

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-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(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)(a)

Suitable play equipment was provided indoors and outdoors which included toys and equipment for tabletop activities, construction, sensory play and home corners.

(b)

The sleep room for children attending the wobbler room was equipped with seven standard cots. The sleep room for children attending the toddler rooms was equipped with nine standard cots. Low level sleep beds were available in the service for any child over the age of two years who required rest or sleep. Soft furnishings were in place in the pre-school rooms for children's rest and relaxation.

(3)(a)

A large outdoor play area was attached to the rear of the service. The perimeter was secured with a high-level wall. A small, canopied area was available. Separate sections were available to the children consisting of artificial grass and wood chip surface areas. These areas were equipped with a variety of bike and trikes, a crawling tunnel, raised play platforms with a slide attached, balance beams, wooden playhouses and swing units.

A small outdoor play area was attached to the front of the service. An absorbent surface area was in place. The perimeter was secured with a metal fence. A selection of bikes and trikes were in place for use by children.

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

A menu plan was available and reviewed in the service. Children’s dietary requirements were accommodated. The service provides meals and snacks to children attending on a full day care basis.

Refrigerators were available for the storage of non-perishable goods in the pre-school rooms. Lunches provided by parents for children attending the ECCE scheme were stored correctly.

A snack consisting of pancakes, kiwi and apple pieces with water to drink was offered to the children attending on a full day basis mid-morning.

At approximately 12:00 the cook served the main meal of which consisted of fishfingers, mashed potato, cauliflower and broccoli. Children were offered milk or water to drink with their meal.

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 main entrance door to the service was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. The reception area was staffed for the duration of the inspection. A coded system is in place for entry to the pre-school rooms. The inspectors signed the visitor book on arrival at the service.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of toys, equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks and after using the toilet.

The pre-school rooms were ventilated by natural ventilation with windows open. The sanitary accommodation and nappy changing areas were ventilated by mechanical ventilation. Supplies of paper hand towel and liquid soap were available in the sanitary accommodation.

Foot operated pedal bins were noted in the pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste.

The nappy changing practice observed was carried out correctly.

Administration of Medication:

No medicine was administered during the inspection. Temperature reducing medication was available and stored out of the reach of children.

Safe Sleep:

A sleep log was maintained noting the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children. The wobbler sleep room temperature noted was 17.7 degrees Celsius. The toddler sleep room temperature noted was 20.5 degrees Celsius. The toddler sleep room was not occupied during the inspection.

Fire Safety:

Emergency exits were unobstructed. A designated fire assembly point was located to the side of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The floor mat at the emergency exit door in the pre-school room did not have a non-slip backing which posed a potential slip hazard.

Infection Control:

2. Seven highchairs were stored incorrectly in the sanitary accommodation next to the nappy changing bin which was ineffective for infection control purposes.
3. The five-point safety harness straps were heavily stained, discoloured and required cleaning or replacement.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The mat has been removed.

Infection Control:

2 &3. Most of the highchairs have been thrown out, with small chairs brought in and 3 other chairs. We removed all the straps and washed them, and they came out very clean. By throwing out some of the chairs we have spares, and we have added changing the straps to the duties of the supervisor.

Management have created the ancillary role of curriculum supervisor to ensure that the general supervisors role focuses more on cleanliness and QRF checks.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

Evidence submitted and reviewed by the Early Years Inspector met the Regulatory requirement.

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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The records of arrival and departure reviewed verified that each child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by a nominated staff member.

(3)(a)

All entry to the service with the exception of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) has to be approved by a staff member.

(b)

A visitor log was in place to record the details and purpose of all visitors to the service.

(4)

The visitor log is retained throughout the annual operation of 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)

Four adults present were qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available in the premises for the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

Three first aid boxes were available in accessible and conspicuous locations in the service.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to children in the pre-school service.

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 written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The most recent fire drill was recorded as taking place on 9 April 2024.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The smoke alarms were serviced on the 9 April 2024. The firefighting equipment was serviced on 12 May 2023.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance hall and in the pre-school rooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

Children were supervised by sight or sound in the pre-school rooms, in the outdoor play area and when using the sanitary accommodation.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service and the expiry date noted as 27 March 2025.

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 registered providers furnished all information as reasonably required by the Agency for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations.