

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN018		
Name of Service:	Frenchpark and Districts Childcare CLG		
Address of Service:	Corskeagh Estate, Corskeagh, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon		
Eircode:	F45 Y860		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Devine		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	26/05/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	54	PM 29
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon		
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Kennedy & H. Heagney		
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 community operated pre-school was established in 2004. The service offers full day care and part time care provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs, for children aged between 0 to 6 years, from Monday to Friday. Additionally, an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes is offered. The service also operates a breakfast club and afterschool programme for school aged children. The service currently caters for a maximum number of 82 children, at any one time. There are six playrooms, the Baby room, the Toddler room, the Full day care room, the Sessional am / pm room, the Lunch room are on the ground floor, while the Highscope room is on the first floor. It is acknowledged on the day of inspection; the Baby room was not in use and the Lunch room was solely used for the school aged children. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is a sleep area with three cots and stackable beds available for younger children requiring sleep provision. There are outdoor play areas to the rear and sides of the premises. A child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on Highscope and emerging interests is provided.

Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. There is a named person in charge and a deputy person in charge. Thirty-one staff files including the registered provider were reviewed. Twenty staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. There is a designated business manager, two office administrators and a cleaner. There are four staff designated to kitchen duties who prepare, cook, and serve the service meals / snacks. Additionally, there are two staff designated solely to the care of the school aged 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 inspections 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.

Additional Information

On the 29th of May 2023, an immediate action notice was issued, for Regulation 23 (Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child). as the temperatures in the Toddler sleep area, was not maintained between 16°C to 20°C, while children were sleeping.

On the 29th of May 2023, the person in charge advised that the cot / sleep area for the children in the Toddler room had been relocated to the Baby room, which had enhanced cross ventilation from external windows and doors. The person in charge also advised that the temperature reading would be maintained between 16°C to 20°C and new egg pod thermometers had been ordered.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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
- (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)

There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputize in the service.

(b)
The person in charge and on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

Documentary evidence indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

(2)(a)&(b)

The thirty-one staff files were reviewed.

Sixty-two of the sixty-two, written validated references on file in respect of the thirty-one staff were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the thirty-one staff.

(d)

Documentary evidence indicated that six staff, had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years, and had the required police vetting. It is acknowledged that where applicable this police vetting was translated by a reputable source.

(4)

The twenty staff working directly with the pre-school children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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)(a)

There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b)

The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, at all times, when the pre-school children were present.

(c)

Staff rosters and documentary evidence indicated that there was a clear management structure in the service, that identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2)

The person in charge ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained. On the morning of the inspection, there were 54 children present

- 4 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 19 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 31 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were thirteen staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, the person in charge acted as childcare relief and assisted with the administration parts of the inspection.

There were two staff designated to kitchen duties, preparing, and serving the service meals.

There was also a cleaner and an office administrator on duty.

In the afternoon, there were 29 children present

- 4 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 13 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 12 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were seven staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, the person in charge acted as childcare relief and assisted with the administration parts of the inspection. There were two staff designated to kitchen duties, preparing, and serving the service meals. There was also a cleaner and an office administrator on duty.

In the afternoon there were 11 children attending the school aged programme who were cared for by two designated staff members.

(8)(a)

The registered provider ensured that there were always two staff on the premises while the service was operating.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

(5) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h) &(i)

A sample of twenty-five children's records were reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The twenty-five random children's records contained the following:

The name and date of birth of the child.

The date on which the child first attended the service.

The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).

The name and address of the child's parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.

Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.

Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.

Details of any immunisations that the child has had.

The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.

Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was / is an emergency.

(4) &(5)

The person in charge advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that the pre-school had a system to allow all relevant children's records were kept for 2 years, from the date a child stops attending 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.

Compliance Information

- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be as independent, as possible.
- All meals and snacks were supplied by the service. The children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner. The staff complied with the service's healthy eating policy.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. The staff used the correct language surrounding toileting.
- On the day of inspection, seven children from the Toddler room wore nappies and were changed in the designated nappy changing areas, in a sensitive and timely manner, on a regular basis.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax in a designated cosy area in each for the playrooms.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance. Play activities and experiences were developmentally appropriate and suitably challenging.

- The children were observed at free play, painting, playing with play dough (rolling, cutting, shaping), at pasta, sand, and water play. The children played at pretend house / kitchen, using transport vehicles on tracks, and at dress up. The children were observed stacking, constructing, shape sorting, connecting, and playing with animals / dinosaurs. The children chatted to the inspectors about their day in pre-school. The staff read stories and children questioned the characters and gave their views. The staff used visual aids and probed with questions such as ‘who is this?’, ‘how many are there?’. The staff acknowledged a child’s achievements, ‘well done’, ‘that’s great’ and the children were observed laughing and having fun.
- On the day of inspection all children played outside. The younger children were observed playing in the kitchen, digging and at sand play. The older children were observed on the swings, on the climbing frame / balancing beams, playing in the playhouse, dancing to action songs, stretching, hopping, running, digging and filling buckets with sand.
- There was evidence that the service celebrated cultural days and holiday event by having a diversity calendar. Events such as Chinese New Year, Patrick’s Day, Pancake Tuesday, Ramadan, Easter were enjoyed by the children. Additionally, the pre-school had welcomed a hairdresser, a Garda, paramedic personnel, a farmer with a pet lamb, Santa, and the Easter bunny during this school year.
- The staff supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by -
 - having a key person system for each child,
 - showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust,
 - listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children’s cues, gestures, and body language,
 - using soft tones, the child’s individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact,
 - providing opportunities for individual and small group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging,
 - providing opportunities for children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute to projects and tasks,
 - working with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child’s interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.

- Parents/guardians signed a parental agreement form and received a parent handbook with the service ethos, daily routine strategies for supporting the children and the updated policies, procedures, response plans.
- On speaking with the staff, the inspectors were informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child's experiences in the pre-school including the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. This information was provided at collection times and via text messages, by phone calls, and by email.
- The service offers a private confidential childcare application 'app' which allows private communication between the pre-school and parents / guardians only for purposes of daily communication regarding attendance, daily activities, sleep diary, nappy changing diary, observations, and milestones. Medication administration and accident and injury records were also collated by using this childcare application. Additional information about the service and general information was displayed on the notice boards.
- There was evidence that children with additional health care needs had a written individual care plan. The care plans covered the following headings the strategy, the risk, who is responsible, the risk level and how do we reduce the risk with a comment section. The care plans were in partnership with parents and guardians, and the child's medical practitioner to ensure a child gets the required unique quality of care and treatment, if and when necessary.
- The staff were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them, and talking to the children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling, and commentating, extending a child's activities and initiating games and activities. The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences. The inspectors noted the staff acknowledged a child's achievements 'that is great' 'well done' and used questions such as 'what should we do next?', 'is there any other way to do this?', to allow children to critically think and explore.
- On the day of the inspection, the staff showed kindness. They were thoughtful, supportive, and reassuring whilst caring for the children. They cared for children by being supportive while the children engaged in free play, role play, and creative play. A climate was fostered where the children knew their boundaries. The staff supported children to enter social groups, and to learn to help and positively engage with other children. They encouraged and praised children for specific, positive, and appropriate behaviours. Children were given positive alternatives, rather than just being told 'no'. Children were supported in preventing, managing, and resolving conflict. Older children could identify, name, and explore their feelings both positive and negative.

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 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)

The design, organisation and resourcing of the pre-school environment supported each child's wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service. The environment provided a range of challenging, diverse, creative, and enriching experiences for all children in line with their stage of development. The atmosphere in the learning environment was encouraging and unhurried. The play materials and environment were changeable, flexible, and responsive to the emerging changing needs, preferences, and interests of the children. The staff encouraged children to interact and to engage with a range of materials, activities, and equipment in the environment, based on the child's choices, age and stage of development.

The Playrooms

The indoor playrooms were designed and arranged to

- maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter,
 - accommodate children individually, and in small groups,
 - divide the space into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support children's play and learning,
 - give all children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.
- The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was readily accessible by the pre-school children.

- The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

On the day of inspection, the Baby room was not in use and the Lunch room was solely used by school aged children.

The Toddler room.

There were clearly defined interest areas including a home area with a play kitchen, a cooker, washing machine, sink, microwave, a dresser and play accessories. There was a dress up area with outfits, bags and hats and a wall mounted mirror. There was a construction area with building blocks, and a work bench with tools. There was a farm with farm and wild animals. There were tabletop activities including stacking materials, building blocks, musical toys, shape sorters, puzzles, playdough, chalk / blackboards, shape cutters and accessories. There was a garage with cars and trucks. There was a cosy library with child sized couches and with a selection of age-appropriate books.

Displayed on the walls were visual aids, posters and educational materials related to themes such as hand hygiene, birthdays, the children's artwork, emotions, and a friendship circle / tree.

The Full Day Care room.

Materials and items included an art and craft area with wall mounted easels, a selection of paints, glue, glitter, paper, paintbrushes, pencils, and crayons. There was a construction area with building blocks, a workbench, tools and hard hats. There was a doll's house with play accessories. There was a dress up area with a selection of outfits, play accessories and a wall mounted mirror. There was a home area with a play kitchen with a cooker, sink, washing machine and play accessories. There was a shop with cash registers and play accessories. There was a large, matted area with child sized couches and chairs which had a selection of age-appropriate books to enable a child to relax or opt out of activities.

Displayed on the walls were visual aids, posters and educational materials related to themes such as a happy birthday caterpillar, emotions, calm down yoga tips for children, handwashing and a farm created by the children, the daily routine, a family wall and our classroom rules.

The Sessional am /pm room.

Materials and items included an art and craft area with paints and wall mounted painting easels, glue, pencils, crayons, scissors, markers, sponges, matchsticks, pipe cleaners, pegs and pegboards and magnetic play. There was a home area with a play kitchen cooker, sink, washing machine and play accessories. There were dolls, prams, cots, and dolls clothing. There was a dolls house with accessories. There was a construction area with large wooden blocks, garages, a selection of cars and trucks. There were castles and play accessories. There was an old-style school desk with a selection of telephones.

Displayed on the walls were visual aids, posters and educational materials related to themes such as the daily routine, little helpers (with children assigned to do different jobs i.e., helping at snack time), cough and sneeze etiquette, a pictorial display on the local schools in the area, birthday balloons and a family wall.

The Highscope room

Materials and items included art and craft materials such as paints, bibs, art trays, paper, pencils, crayons, matchsticks, play dough. There was a sand unit with utensils, scoops, sieves, funnels, and cones. There was a pasta tray, sensory balls, a shop register, keyboards, telephones, toy laptops, and musical instruments. There was a vanity dresser and a dress up rail with clothing, hats / helmets, and bangles There were dolls, prams, cots, and dolls clothing. There were small world items, insets, puzzles, games, jigsaws, magnets, links, sorting mixing materials, shape colour stackers, and connectors. There was a construction table with tools, books, transport vehicles, counters, a globe, massage brushes, dinosaurs, and jungle animals. There was a nature area with stones, pinecones, shells, and a volcano. There were kitchens with food items, kettles, glasses, cups, presses, a washing machine, oven, microwave, teapots, presses, and sinks.

Displayed on the walls were visual aids, posters and educational materials related to themes such as birthday balloons, caterpillars, our pets, special people in our lives, dinosaurs, colour mixing, science, and nature. There was also mounted blackboards, easels, and notice boards. Also displayed was our daily routine, know your alphabet and photographs of the pet lamb who came to visit. Hanging from the ceiling were balloons, planet /space and children's artwork.

(1)(b)

Rest / quiet area was provided in each of the playrooms in the form of child size seating, foam shapes and matting to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to.

(3)(a)

Outdoor area

- The outdoor areas were surrounded by fencing, walls, and gates. The areas were covered with an impact absorbing surface, tarmac and concrete. The outdoor play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate.

Outdoor area adjacent to the Toddler and the Sessional am/ pm room.

- There were all-weathered sheltered areas with seating, a covered sand unit with utensils, an easel, connectors, blocks, and a kitchen. There was also a playhouse, a climbing frame, swing sets and balancing beams.

Outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room and Lunchroom.

- There was an all-weathered sheltered area with a table and seating, a playhouse, sand and water basins with accessories. There were monkey bars and a climbing frame. The person in charge advised that the climbing frame was not in use.
- A storage shed was also provided in the space for outdoor play equipment / materials.

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

- There was a healthy eating policy. The person in charge advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by visual aids, and adherence to best practice guidelines. A four-week menu was available to parents and guardians.
- The service had a designated kitchen staff /chefs who prepared and cooked the meals and snacks. All meals and snacks were provided by the service, for children attending on a full day care / part time basis.
- At 10.00hrs, the children had their breakfast. A selection of cereals, porridge, kiwi, banana, apple fruit pieces, toast with milk or water to drink was offered.
- At 12.00hrs, the main meal of chicken curry, white rice was offered. A desert of frozen yogurt was also provided.
- At 15.00hrs, the children had crackers, ham, cheese, tomatoes, and cucumber.

- At 16.30hrs, the children had the opportunity for a further snack of fruit pieces with milk to drink.
- At each meal and snack the children had the opportunity for seconds and or an alternative.
- Cutlery, plates, and crockery were offered for children’s meal / snack times.
- Clean and safe drinking water was at a low-level and accessible to children in each playroom.

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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent a child gaining unsupervised access and unauthorised persons gaining access to the premises.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured by fencing and a gate so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area or children could not exit unsupervised.
- The door into the kitchen, office, storerooms and staff room had a system of security.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There were intact safety straps as per manufacturer’s instructions, on the highchairs in the Toddler rooms.
- There were high-level windows in the playrooms, as a safety security precaution.
- There were visibility stickers / artwork on glass doors as a safety measure.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted to prevent any trip or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Water temperature readings were below the recommended 43°C thus preventing a risk of scalding.
- Documented risk assessments for the playrooms and outdoor play areas were available for review

Infection Control:

- Staff prompted and supervised the children to wash their hands before eating and following nappy changing / toileting, messy play, and outdoor play.

- Adequate liquid soap and paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the sanitary areas and the playrooms.
- There was a designated nappy changing area. The nappy mat was intact. The children's barrier creams were individually labelled. Staff involved in the serving of food, wore disposal aprons when nappy changing. The nappy and toileting policy and procedure had been updated in 2023.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- A cleaning and disinfection schedule was available in the service. There were suitable cleaning products available in the service.
- The inspectors noted high contact areas were cleaned regularly, as per best practice guidance. The outdoor play equipment was cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in each of the playrooms.
- There were foot pedaled lidded bins in the sanitary areas and playrooms.

Outings

- There was evidence that the older children went on outings to a pet farm, to a fairy garden, to a forest and to the village greenway.
- The service had insurance for outings.
- The person in charge ensured that there was a staff member with first aid / a first aid box on each outing, in the event of an emergency.

Safe Sleep:

- There was a designated sleep area in the Toddler room, with three cots and four stackable beds for younger children's sleep provision.
- On the day of inspection, children were observed sleeping after their main meal, in the designated sleep area in the Toddler room. It was noted that while the children were sleeping, there were two fans in use. Additionally, a black out curtain was used in the Toddler room to designate differentiate the sleeping area with the play area. It was noted that the sleeping children's clothing was kept to a minimal. The early years inspectors also noted that staff opened the external Toddler room, doors, and windows, while children were sleeping.
- The sleep policy detailed the correct temperature, lighting, ventilation, space between cots and child safety requirements.
- The inspectors observed and documentary evidence indicated that the staff physically checked sleeping children every 10 minutes. The service kept documented sleep records. Records for sleeping children

included a record of the room temperature and the position, colour and breathing of the child (as per the safe sleep for under 2's best practice guidelines for childcare services policy) and the signature of the staff member who checks the sleeping child.

- A supply of clean linen was available for each child.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, a hose pipe was observed accessible and within a child reach thus posing risk of injury to a child.
2. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, there was evidence of splinters on a section of the wooden storage shed, thus posing a risk of injury to a preschool child.
3. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, a pest control bait box was potentially accessible posing a safety risk to the children.
4. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, a section of wood on the table under the large climbing frame was missing posing a potential risk to children.
5. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Toddler / Sessional am/ pm rooms, a section of the wooden play kitchen was loose with a screw exposed posing a risk of injury to a child.
6. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Toddler / Sessional am/ pm rooms, there was a wooden fencing lath with protruding exposed screws / nails posing a potential risk of injury to a child.
7. In the Toddler room, an electric cable from a fan was not secure and potentially accessible posing a risk of injury to a child.
8. On the day of inspection, the staff toilet on the ground floor had no method of security and the door was often left open and therefore accessible to the children.

Infection Control:

9. In the Toddler nappy changing area, the airtight sealable bin for the disposal of nappies was broken.
10. In the Full Day Care room, the mats and one section of the child sized couch were ripped, torn and potentially difficult to clean.
11. In the Full Day Care sanitary accommodation, play materials / equipment were inappropriately stored on the top of a shelving unit, thus posing a risk of cross contamination.
12. In the Toddler nappy changing area, children's clothing was inappropriately stored in open bags or boxes. thus posing a risk of cross contamination.

Safe Sleep:

13. On the day of inspection, the temperature of the Toddler sleep area was not maintained between 16°C to 20°C, while younger children between the age of 1 and 3 years, were sleeping. Three children were observed sleeping in cots and four children were observed sleeping on stackable beds.

At 13.40hrs, a temperature reading of 21.5°C was recorded while seven children were sleeping.

At 14.30hrs, a temperature reading of 21.9°C was recorded while five children were sleeping.

At 14.45hrs, a temperature reading of 23°C was recorded while five children were sleeping.

At 15.05hrs, a temperature reading of 20.8°C was recorded with all children waking up or awake following their sleep.

It was also noted on the day of inspection, the service digital probe thermometer that was available in the sleep room and used as the method of recording the sleep room temperature was not working and had a static reading of 22°C.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 29th of May and 22nd of June 2023, the person in charge advised of the following

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, the hose pipe has been removed and will only be used as required and thus it is accessible to the children.
2. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, the wood panelling has covered the section of the wooden storage shed which had evidence of splinting.
3. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, the pest control bait box has been removed and is now inaccessible to the children.
4. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, a section of wood on the table under the large climbing frame has been repaired.
5. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Toddler / Sessional am/ pm rooms, a section of the wooden play kitchen that was loose has been repaired.
6. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Toddler / Sessional am/ pm rooms, the wooden fence lath that had protruding exposed screws / nails has been repaired.
7. In the Toddler room, an electric cable from a fan has been secured and now inaccessible to the children.
8. The staff toilet on the ground floor has now a method of security and thereby inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

9. In the Toddler nappy changing area, the airtight sealable bin for the disposal of nappies has been replaced.
10. In the Full Day Care room, the mats and one section of the child sized couch were ripped, torn have been removed.
11. In the Full Day Care sanitary accommodation, play materials / equipment were inappropriately stored on the top of a shelving unit have been removed.
12. In the Toddler nappy changing area, children's clothing that were inappropriately stored in open bags have been relocated to the corridor/shelving area.

Safe Sleep:

13. The temperature of the Toddler sleep room is now maintained between 16°C to 20°C. An air-cooling machine and a new thermometer has been purchased. There is now a designated sleep room for younger children's sleep provision. Cots have been placed 50cm apart.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photograph of the area where the hose pipe in the outdoor area was removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
2. Photograph from the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, of the repaired section of the wooden storage, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
3. Photographs showing that the pest control bait box was relocated and thereby now inaccessible to the children, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
4. Photograph from the outdoor area adjacent to the Full Day Care room, showing the repaired table under the large climbing frame was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
5. Photograph from the outdoor area adjacent to the Toddler / Sessional am/ pm rooms, showing the section of the wooden play kitchen was repaired was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
6. Photography from the outdoor area adjacent to the Toddler / Sessional am/ pm rooms, showing that the protruding exposed screws / nails have been removed from the lath wooden fencing, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
7. Photographic evidence of the secured cable from electric fan in the Toddler room was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

8. Photographic evidence of a hook and eye latch to ensure the ground floor adult toilet was inaccessible was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Infection Control:

- 9 Photographic evidence of the airtight sealable bin for the disposal of nappies was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
- 10 Photograph from the Full Day Care room, showing that the mats were removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
- 11 Photographic evidence of the Full Day Care sanitary accommodation, showing that the play materials / equipment has now been removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
- 12 Photographic evidence showing children's clothing is now appropriately stored on shelving in the corridor/lobby area was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Safe Sleep:

- 13 Photographic evidence of new location for the cots / stackable beds (to the former Baby room), and evidence that new egg pod thermometers have been ordered was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1)

The service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Ten staff had current training in first aid for children.

(2)(a)

In each playroom and in the kitchen, there was a first aid box with content items in date, safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position. It is acknowledged that additional first aid materials were available in the storeroom.

(b)

The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes, were fully equipped and available to the children attending 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 fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service.

The last recorded fire drill were dated

- 23rd of May 2023, for the Toddler room.
- 10th of May 2023 for the Sessional am and pm room.
- 27th of April 2023, for the Full day care room.
- 27th of April 2023, for the Highscope room.

(b)

Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 28th of November 2022. The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 15th of November 2022.

(4)

Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service’s insurance with an expiry date 28th of March 2024, was for a full day care covering 130 children included the following -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a)
From a visual inspection the premises was of sound and stable structure.
The service’s exterior walls, roof and foundation appear to be structurally sound, weather-tight and water-tight to ensure protection from weather.
Each interior floor, wall and ceiling appeared to be well finished with no evidence of mould.
Drainage and septic tanks were inaccessible to children.
- (b)
Exits were clearly identified and visible during service hours.
Electrical sockets were safe.

Floor coverings were secured and non-slip.

The service had a reception to facilitate parents and guardians' contact.

(c)

There was natural lighting from the windows on the outer walls for each playroom.

The playrooms were well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.

The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.

(d)

The premises was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. The service had a designated cleaner.

(e)

Adequate staff and children's sanitary accommodation was available in the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(b)

In the Toddler nappy changing / sanitary area, there was no handle on the sliding door resulting in the door being difficult to easily open /close.

(c)

In the Toddler nappy changing / sanitary area, there was evidence of a build-up of dust and debris on the cover of the ceiling ventilation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On 22nd of June 2023 the person in charge advised of the following

Corrective and Preventive Action

There is now a handle on the sliding door into the Toddler nappy changing/sanitary area.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of a handle on the sliding into the Toddler nappy changing/sanitary area was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 29 has been adequately addressed.