

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN035				
Name of Service:	Little Rascals Day Care				
Address of Service:	Circular Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.				
Eircode:	F42 XV57				
Name of Registered Provider:	Catherine Mullaney				
Service type:	Full Day				
Date of Inspection:	20/11/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>59</td> <td>PM</td> <td>33</td> </tr> </table>	AM	59	PM	33
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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 full day care is in the town of Roscommon. The pre-school caters for children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service also provides an afterschool programme and holiday camp for school aged children. The service is registered to operate from 7:30hrs to 18:30hrs, from Monday to Friday. The premises is in a detached building, with four playrooms namely the Cubs room, the Ladybird room, and the Tigers room, on the ground floor and the Monkey room, on the first floor. There is a designated sleep room with six cots, adjacent to the Cubs room, for infants and toddlers, sleep provision. There are stackable beds available for older children's sleep provision. There is a kitchen where children's meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There are outdoor play areas to the front and rear of the premises for children's play and exploration. A carpark is provided to the front of the facility for staff parking and the safe drop-off and collection of children, by parents and guardians.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service. There are fourteen staff including the registered provider. Thirteen staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. These staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. There is also an adult over the age of 18 years, on a childcare work placement who is supervised when interacting with the children. There is a designated chef who solely works in the service kitchen.

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.

Additional Information

On the 21st of November 2023, an immediate action notice was issued, for Regulation 23 (Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child) as the temperature of the Ladybird room was above the safety requirements when children aged 3 to 4 years were sleeping.

On the 22nd of November 2023, the registered provider, advised of remedial actions that were taken to reduce the temperature in the Ladybird room.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.*

(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)

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was 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 in the form of staff rotas indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

The files for the fourteen staff (including the registered provider) and the one adult over the age of 18 years on a childcare work placement, were reviewed.

(2)(a)&(b)

Thirty of the thirty written validated references on file, in respect of the fourteen staff, and one adult on a childcare work placement were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the fourteen staff and the one adult on a childcare work placement.

(d)

Documentary evidence indicated that four of the 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 these vettings were translated by a reputable source.

One of the four staff members had lived in two different locations and had the required police vettings for both jurisdictions.

(4)

Thirteen staff working directly with the 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)

At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(2)

Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.

(2)

On the day of inspection, the following details regarding the adult child ratio were obtained.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 59 children present.

- 4 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 6 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 49 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were nine staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, there was an adult on a childcare work placement who was supervised when interacting with the children. The registered provider and person in charge were supernumerary and assisted with the administration requirements of the inspection and acted as childcare relief. There was also a chef working in the service.

On the afternoon of the inspection, there were 33 children present.

- 4 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 6 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 23 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were five staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, there was an adult on a childcare work placement over the age of 18 years who was supervised when interacting with the children.

The registered provider assisted with the administration parts of the inspection and acted as childcare relief.

(8)(a)

The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school 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)

Thirty-two children's records were sampled and reviewed by the early year's inspector.

The thirty-two records reviewed showed that the entries were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The thirty-two children's records contained the following:

- The name and date of birth of the child.
- The date in which the child first commenced in 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.
- The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
- A record of any immunisations the child has had or a disclaimer.
- 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 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

- Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack(s) and meal(s) without being rushed. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- The children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner and the older children sat at age-appropriate low-level chairs and tables at their snack / mealtimes. The younger children were fed by staff members and sat in highchairs for their snack/mealtimes.
- The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable for the children's ages and stage of development.
- The staff encouraged and supported the pre-school children to feed themselves independently, according to their age and stage of development.
- The staff responded to children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to nappy changing and toileting and toilet training.
- Fifteen of the younger children from the Cubs, Ladybird and Monkeys room wore nappies/pull ups and had their nappies/pull ups changed on a regular basis. These children were changed in a sensitive manner while having their dignity and privacy maintained.
- The older children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. Children were allowed to take their time during toileting. Staff encouraged and supported children to become more independent in toileting practices.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence, and to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.

- The service supported the children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with staff.

For example:

- assigning a key person to each child;
 - showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust;
 - being actively involved in children’s play, where appropriate (initiating games, joining when invited to by children);
 - behaving in a way that creates a positive atmosphere (having frequent social conversations, joint laughter and showing affection);
 - 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;
 - encouraging children to think critically, ask questions and respond to them in a way that promotes sustained shared thinking; nurturing and comforting children;
 - using soft tones, the child’s individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact.
- Visual aids (picture and word reminders) and instructions were displayed and used with the children to support their learning.
 - The atmosphere in the learning environment was encouraging and unhurried.
 - The children were supported to be confident about their identity and to have a strong sense of belonging, each day, while in the service.
 - The service provided parents and guardians with daily information, including significant events or activities involving their child, for example, verbal communication at drop of and collection times, a social media interactive communication application, and via profile scrapbooks.
 - Staff collated for each child a profile scrapbook my learning journal, showing the ‘child’s journey’ using observations and including samples of a child’s work. The themes to date included emotions, friendship tree, family pictures, road safety, buckle up, numbers, colours, shapes, Autumn, and Halloween. The children’s art and craft work was collated into folders and given to parents and guardians on a regular basis.
 - Staff adjusted the level of support provided to children depending on the child’s abilities, allowing for children’s partial participation and participation with support.

- On the day of inspection, the children in the Cubs room were observed playing with sensory equipment, rattles, shape sorters, musical instruments, looking at books, and playing house / kitchen.
- The children in the Ladybird room were observed playing in the home area with a selection of dolls and accessories, at tabletop activities including jigsaws, puzzles, sorting shapes, playing with accessories in the doll's house. The children were observed at construction, singing, dancing, and playing with musical instruments.
- In the Tigers and Monkeys rooms, the children were observed at free play, at construction building, connecting, at sensory play, at pretend kitchen / house, and sorting stacking materials. The children played games, puzzles, and insets. The children enjoyed playing with a selection of transport vehicles and on the farm. The children played 'Mammy and Daddy' with a selection of dolls, cots, and prams. The children enjoyed playing with both a gravel and pasta filled basin which had a selection of transport vehicles, bobbins, utensils, and containers. At circle time the children chatted about 'the people who help us in the community'. The children enjoyed art and craft work including painting, drawing, and at playdough. The staff read stories and asked children their views.
- On the day of inspection, all the children had the opportunity to play outside. In the outdoor areas, the children were observed climbing, on the slide, riding bicycles, push cars, scooters, and vehicles, balancing on beams, running, sorting, and exploring.
- The staff listened to children in a caring, gentle way when they expressed emotions, and reassured them that it is normal to experience positive and negative emotions at times. The staff acknowledged and accepted children's feelings (positive and negative) and the relationships between children's actions and other's responses. In all the playrooms, the children were given choice on what to do next.
- 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.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive manner by the staff. It was observed that minor problems were handled promptly and positively by the staff.
- Staff responded to infants and toddlers in a timely and appropriate way when they were crying or when becoming upset.

- Staff used positive strategies to support children’s inclusion. For example, the inspectors noted that the staff acknowledged a child’s engagement in an activity ‘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.
- 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. 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 space in the four playrooms was designed and arranged to:
 - maintain a space that is clean, organised, and free of clutter;
 - accommodate children individually, in small groups and in a large group;
 - divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support children’s play and learning;
 - give children with additional needs access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities as the other children, to promote their welfare and development.

- The design, organisation and resourcing of the environment supported each child’s wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.
 - The environment was comfortable, inviting and laid out to accommodate the needs of all children and staff in the pre-school.
 - The service had safe and comfortable spaces for infants, toddlers, or children not walking, to lie, roll, creep, crawl, pull themselves up, learn to walk, and to be protected from children who were more mobile.
 - Staff had a comfortable place to sit, hold, and feed infants, and to read with, interact with and comfort children.
 - The environments provided a range of challenging, diverse, creative, and enriching experiences for all children in line with their stage of development. Staff encouraged the children to interact and to engage with a range of materials, activities, equipment in the indoor and outdoor environment, based on the child’s needs, choices, interests and age and stage of development.
 - The children had access to enough varied materials and equipment, which were rotated to suit the changing programme, to suit current and new interests and skill levels.
 - Materials and equipment were arranged so they were visible and readily accessible to promote independent access by children. There were different interest areas provided, where equipment and materials of similar use were arranged or grouped together.
 - There were play materials with a variety of colours, textures, shapes, and sizes to experiment with and explore that were freely available in the service. For examples: open-ended objects such as play dough, construction and building materials such as stacking shapes, magnets, links, connectors, threading material, pins, suckers, shape cutters and blocks. There were problem solving items such as insets, puzzles, counters, timers, links, matching cards, frames, games, and jigsaws. There were measuring and pouring items, such as jugs, scales, and containers. There were role play areas such as kitchens, shops, houses, and construction areas with utensils and tools. There were creative play areas with a selection of art and craft materials. There were shapes, books, animals, dinosaurs, dolls, action figures, dolls houses, baby baths, and dress up clothing. There were transport vehicles, musical toys, and sensory boards.
 - Displayed on the walls were visual aids, posters, educational materials, and children’s artwork. Displays included our friendship circle, it’s my birthday, our family, the daily routine, saying please and thank you, the children’s artwork on hedgehogs, squirrels, acorns, lions, and Autumn trees.
- (1)(b) There were cosy areas with soft seating, in each of the playrooms. The service had a designated sleep room with six cots and stackable beds for older children’s sleep provision.

(3)(a)

Outdoor area

- The service balanced the need for safety with the need to provide physical, challenging experiences for children. The outdoor areas to the front and rear of the premises were secured by walls and fencing and covered with an impact absorbing surface, grass, and tarmacadam.
- On the day of inspection, all the children had opportunities to be outside as often as possible.
- The equipment and materials in the outdoor play areas supported children’s play, movement, and exploration, and provided opportunities exclusive to the outdoors.

To the front of the premises

- Materials and items included push cars, bench seating, balancing beams / bridge, a basketball hoop, an activity centre with three slides, a climbing frame, ladder, and bridge. There was a basketball hoop and two goal posts.

To the rear of the premises

- Materials and items included a sheltered play area with a climbing frame and slide set, table and chairs, a play garage, and a rail set. There was a storage container with a selection of play trucks, trains and buses and planting boxes. Displayed on the walls of the sheltered play area were a selection of wooden animals, art shapes, and a blocks and beads activity board.
- There were two additional play areas with a selection of push cars, tricycles, a play lawn mower, a wheelbarrow, and a water play table.

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

- The service had a healthy eating policy.
- From 8.00hrs to 9.00hrs, the service provided breakfast cereals and milk for any child who was hungry.
- At 10.20hrs, the children had yogurts, cheese, crackers, sandwiches, fruit pieces, raisins, provided by parents and guardians.

- At 13.15hrs, the children had pasta, sweetcorn, carrots, and bolognaise which was cooked on site, by the designated chef.
- At 15:30hrs, the children had an afternoon snack of cous cous and natural yogurt coulis.
- The meals and snacks were of appropriate textures for infants and toddlers.
- The children attending the service on a full day care and part time basis had two meals snacks. The children attending the full day care service had a hot meal provided by the service. The registered provider advised that the staff ensured that each meal snack had two food groups. The registered provider advised that there was a supply of food in the kitchen, for any child requiring additional food.
- A drinks table was available in each playroom to allow the children the opportunity to 'self-serve' their drinks.
- Perishable items from children's lunch boxes were stored in designated fridges.

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:

- There was a buzzer access system, into the main entrance front door.
- The staff only areas, kitchen, office, staff sanitary area and storage areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play areas were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors throughout both buildings were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were secured and or inaccessible to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The playroom temperatures were thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperatures were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hygienic hand washing was available. Radiators were thermostatically controlled not exceeding 50°C to prevent potential burning.

- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children, attending the pre-school.
- Highchairs in the Cubs room, conformed to safety standards and had the five-point safety harness system.
- There were visibility posters on the glass doors as a safety precaution. Windows within a child's reach had safety access devices as a safety precaution.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There was a documented risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas, for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The staff clearly identified to the early year's inspectors, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any hazard or potential risk to the pre-school child.

Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- During the inspection, the children were assisted and encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating, after nappy changing, after toileting, and after using a tissue.
- There were two designated nappy changing areas with a designated wash hand basin. The children in nappies were changed in a timely manner, on a regular basis. Staff involved in nappy changing wore a disposable apron and gloves. There were a foot pedalled airtight sealable bins for the disposal of nappies.
- The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled / stored within the nappy changing areas.
- The service had a sterilising system for children's soothers.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposal paper towels and disinfectant spray.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playrooms.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Refrigerators were provided for the storage of perishable foods.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- The staff had cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings

Administration of Medication:

- On the day of inspection, staff advised that two children from the Ladybird room were on medication and a care plan was in place for these children.
- Medication was stored safely on a high shelf inaccessible to the children.
- Medication administration records including written parental consent were available.
- Through discussion with the inspectors, the staff demonstrated that they were aware of the correct procedures for the administration of medicines.

Safe Sleep:

- There was a designated sleep room adjacent to the Cubs room which had six cots for children under 2 years of age, sleep provision. There were stackable beds available for older children's sleep provision. The Cubs and Ladybird rooms were converted to a sleep area after the children's main meal.
- Children were observed sleeping on demand following cues / signs of tiredness. The children from the Cubs room were observed sleeping, in the designated sleep room, adjacent to the Cubs room. After the main meal / dinner, six children were observed sleeping in cots and fourteen children were observed sleeping on stackable beds in the Cubs and Ladybird rooms. The older children had relaxation, chill out time.
- There was a safe sleep policy that detailed temperature, lighting, ventilation, space between cots and child safety requirements, as per the 'safe sleep for under 2's best practice guidelines for childcare services policy'.
- Sleep records were kept for each child's sleep, recording the time an adult physically checks a child, and their signature. Additionally, the records included a sleeping child's colour, position, breathing and the temperature of the sleep room with the opportunity to document any necessary remedial actions taken.
- A thermometer was available in sleep room and used as the method of recording the sleep room temperature and therefore taking remedial action when temperatures were above 20 °C and below 16 °C.
- All linen provided was clean, dry, and stored in labelled containers.
- Rest / quiet areas were provided in each of the playrooms to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he/she chose.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the outdoor area to the front of the premises, the goal posts were not secure and required anchoring thus posing a potential safety risk to children.
2. Cleaning products were stored on the countertops in the nappy changing area adjoining the Cubs room and in the sanitary area adjacent to the Ladybird room, which could pose a potential accessibility safety risk to children.

Infection Control:

3. On the day of inspection, children's hands were not washed after outdoor play prior to going home. For example, from 11.50hrs to 12.30hrs, children from the Monkey and Tiger rooms were observed playing in the outdoor area prior to going home. These children did not have the opportunity to wash their hands. When the inspectors discussed with the staff the need to wash children's hands after outdoor play, the staff advised that they were not aware of this practice.

Safe Sleep:

4. The room temperature of the Ladybird room was not maintained between 16°C to 20°C, while children between the age of 3 and 4 years, were sleeping.

At 13:25hrs, a temperature reading of 23.1°C, was recorded while nine children were sleeping.

At 13:45hrs, a temperature reading of 23°C, was recorded while nine children were sleeping.

At 14:17hrs, a temperature reading of 24.0°C, was recorded while nine children were sleeping.

At 14:20hrs, these children started to wake.

It is acknowledged that while these children were sleeping a staff member always supervised these children. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on 21st of November 2023, and a response was received by the office of the early years inspectorate to advise of the actions taken to reduce the temperature of the Ladybird room when children for sleeping.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 30th of November and the 12th and 15th of December 2023, the registered provider advised of the following;

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The goal posts are now anchored. The children currently do not have access to this grass area. The goal posts have been added to the managers daily checklist to ensure they are securely anchored.
2. Cleaning products are now stored in a cabinet inaccessible to the children. Staff will remain vigilant regarding keeping products out of children's reach. The cleaning products that are inaccessible to the children has been added to the managers daily checklist to ensure they are safely stored.

Infection Control:

3. The staff were made aware to wash children's hands after outdoor play, prior to going home. The hygiene policy has been updated and staff have been advised of same.

Safe Sleep:

4. A thermostat has been installed in the Ladybird room and staff will monitor the room temperature to ensure safe temperatures particularly when children are sleeping.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence of the anchored goal posts in the outdoor grass area were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence of the cleared counter tops in the nappy changing area adjoining the Cubs room and in the sanitary area adjacent to the Ladybird room was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Infection Control:

3. The updated hygiene policy was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the hygiene policy on display on a notice board to facilitate staff ease of access and referral was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

Safe Sleep:

4. Photographic evidence of a digital thermostat for the Ladybird room was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have 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) Four staff working in the pre-school service had evidence of a current paediatric first aid qualification.
- (2)(a) Four suitably equipped first aid boxes in each playroom were available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position.
- (b) The first aid boxes were readily available, with content items within date.

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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill was dated
- 4th of October 2023 for the Tigers room,
 - 10th of October 2023 for the Cubs room,
 - 14th of November 2023 for the Ladybird room,
 - 17th of November 2023 for the Monkey's room.
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 18th of September 2023. Records indicated that the last maintenance for the fire detection system was dated 6th of December 2022.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each playroom.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had insurance with an expiry date 27th of March 2024, which was for a full day care service for 82 children and included the following: -

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