

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO033				
Name of Service:	Little Haven				
Address of Service:	Fort Haven, Coolaney, Co. Sligo				
Eircode:	F56 EC43				
Name of Registered Provider:	Mairead McCann				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	12/02/2026				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>30</td> <td>PM</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </table>	AM	30	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84				
Inspection undertaken by:	S Killeen				
Title:	Early Years Inspector				

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable.
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Description of service

Little Haven is a community run full day early years service in operation since 2008. It is located in a housing estate in Coolaney, a rural town, 20km from Sligo town. The service provides sessional and full day care services from 08:00 to 18:00hrs, Monday to Friday. The service caters for a maximum of 65 children. The service also caters for school aged children.

Staffing

There is eleven adults employed in the service. Eight of these adults are employed to work directly with the preschool children, two adults work with the afterschool children and one adult works in the kitchen. Eight adults were present on the day of inspection including the person in charge working directly with the children. The registered provider does not work directly with the preschool children.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11,16 i, j, k, 22,23,25,31, and 31. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 l, j, k -record in relation to a preschool child.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and
- (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)

The registered provider ensured that.

- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was 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.

(2)

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that one new staff member had been employed since the previous inspection. A total of one staff file was reviewed. In addition, garda vetting for one staff member whose disclosure was identified as due for renewal was requested for review.

The following vetting information was available for one adult:

- (a) Two written validated references from past employers for one of the adults.
- (b) No written validated references from reputable sources for one of the adult as not required.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for eleven staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for one adult, who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.

(4)
One of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.

- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection.
- (8) The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises when children were present in the service as evidenced of rosters reviewed.

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:

- (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) (i) Records pertaining to a staff roster was held for adults working within the service.
- (i) Details of sample of medication administered to the pre-school children was reviewed with all required information and signed parental consent on file.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (k)
- A sample of 20 accident and incident forms were reviewed. The following information was omitted on four of the forms.
- No management signature on the four forms to indicated that the accident had been reviewed by management.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Circulated accident/ Incident policy to staff, clearly outlining all reports need to be co-signed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Communication to all staff and policy submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 16 K has been adequately addressed.

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 was found to be secured on arrival preventing unauthorised access or exit from the premises.
- Materials were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.
- Cleaning products and equipment were stored out of the reach of children.
- The outdoor area was secured with walls and bolted gates.
- Grapes were observed to be cut in half, reducing the risk of choking to the child.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes in all the three care rooms.
- There was adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- The sanitary facilities were observed to be ventilated by openable windows.
- Sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean.
- Child friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks.
- Up to date cleaning schedules outlining appropriate cleaning methods and the various areas to be cleaned within the playrooms and sanitary and nappy changing accommodation were available.
- Ventilation in each of the rooms was provided by openable windows.

Administration of Medication:

- When interviewed, staff were aware of their responsibilities for the safe administration of medication. No medication was administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- The service had a designated sleep room with appropriate cots available to children.
- Sleep checks were observed to occur every ten minutes.
- The Sleep room temperature was recorded within the acceptable range of 18 to 22°C for over children over 12 months.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the care rooms.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- (1) Trailing wires from a temperature gage in the sleep room were observed to be accessible to the pre-school children.
- (2) A radiator spike accessible to the pre-school children, was exposed in the sleep room, posing a risk of injury to the preschool child.
- (3) No visibility strips on the double door in the bluebell room which could cause an injury to the children if they run into it.
- (4) The windows in the bluebell room did not have restrictors in place and could pose a risk of injury to the children if they accessed the window and fell out.

Infection Control:

- (5) On the day of inspection, after nappy changing, the hands of the babies were observed to be not consistently washed, posing a risk of infection. Gloves and aprons were observed not to be removed after disposing of an unclean nappy, and prior to moving onto the next care activity of placing on a clean nappy, followed with redressing the child. This could lead to a risk of cross infection.
- (6) Foot-operated bins in the nappy changing area were not working, children observed opening the bin with their hands.
- (7) No foot operated bins in the bathroom in the blue bell room which can cause a risk of cross contamination if the children do not have an appropriate facility to dispose of used paper-towels.

Fire Safety:

(8) A fire door in the bluebell nappy changing area, was observed to be held open with a wooden door stop. An open fire door allows smoke and flames to travel freely, accelerating the spread of fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- (1) Trailing wires were removed immediately on the day of inspection.
- (2) Radiator spikes are all covered by plumber and others checked.
- (3) All windows marked or stickers used.
- (4) Window restrictors fitted.

A monthly risk assessment will take place by the manager/ deputy to look for potential risks.

Infection Control:

- (5) Nappy changing policy posted in nappy areas.
- (6) All rooms have appropriate pedal bins and staff support the children where appropriate.
- (7) All rooms have appropriate pedal bins and staff support the children where appropriate.

Fire Safety:

- (8) Doorstops removed from Fire doors.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- (1) Trailing wires removed when inspector was in the service.
- (2) Photographic evidence of radiator cover with spike replaced.
- (3) Photographic evidence of stickers on windows.
- (4) Photographic evidence of window restrictors in place.

Infection Control:

- (5) Communication to staff in relation to appropriate hand hygiene.
- (6) Photographic evidence of appropriate pedal bins.
- (7) Photographic evidence of appropriate pedal bins.

Fire Safety:

- (8) Doorstops removed on the day of inspection.

Summary Comment

The inspector has 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 registered provider ensured a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the preschool service. four adults had up to date certification of first aid for children.

(2) (a) (b)

First aid boxes are available in all the care rooms which are stocked sufficiently for the number of preschool children attending the service.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

(c) an incident that occurs in the service and that results in the service being closed for any length of time;

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The service did not provide Tusla with notification of the closure of the service. The register provider is required to notify Tulsa within three working days if the service is closed for any length of time.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) We have noted in our records for future closures Tusla must be informed within three working days. Manager will take responsibility of informing Tusla of any further unexpected closures.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1) Photographic evidence of Notification of incidents from Tusla web site for services reference.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 31 has been adequately addressed.