

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(s) of Inspection:	12/09/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>30</td> <td>PM</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </table>	AM	30	PM	24
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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:	L Costello				
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 07:30 to 18:00hrs, Monday to Friday, for children from 6 months to 6 years of age. The service caters for a maximum of 65 children. The service also caters for school aged children.

Staffing

There is a manager and 11 other adults employed within the service. All the staff that work directly with the preschool children hold a qualification at minimum level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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 and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23, 24, 25 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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

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

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

Acknowledgments

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

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

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

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*

(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(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 a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premise throughout the period of inspection. Samples of attendance records available for inspection showed that the designated person in charge or the deputy were present in the service whenever the service was in operation.
- (2) It was confirmed with the designated person in charge that the vetting files for three staff members had not been previously reviewed.
- The following vetting information was available for these three staff members:
- (a) Two written validated references from past employers for the three staff members.
 - (b) Not applicable as all staff had past employer references on file.
 - (c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for the three staff.
 - (d) The required international police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.
- (4). Certification of a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or above was available for the three staff members whose vetting documentation was reviewed.

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) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. There were 30 children attending the service being supervised directly by seven adults in the morning and 24 children supervised by six adults in the afternoon.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The children were provided with regular meals and snacks that were prepared by the cook in the service. On the day of inspection, the morning snack provided consisted of fruit yoghurts and pancakes, lunch consisted of potato beans and sausage and evening snack consisted of flapjacks, scones and fruit. Children availing of the sessional service brought in their snacks from home and these consisted of healthy options of yoghurts, fruit and

sandwiches. Mealtimes were observed to be quite times where staff promoted independence for younger children to self-feed. Staff members remained at eye level, encouraging, and supporting children at mealtimes. Extra portions were available for children if required and an alternative of pasta was also given where children did not like the meal provided by the service.

Children attending the service who were toilet trained were encouraged and prompted to use the toilet as required. Hand hygiene was encouraged after toileting and age-appropriate picture stories of handwashing were displayed throughout the service. Those younger children who required nappy changes were responded to as required. Nappy changes were observed to be regular and recorded when completed.

Rest areas were provided in both care rooms in operation on the day of inspection. In the 'sunflowers' preschool room, a rest area was provided with soft carpeting and cushions so children could take a break or opt out of an activity. There is a dedicated sleep room in the service and children availing of full day care in both rooms can avail of this. Sleep in the service was scheduled and responsive to the needs of the children. All children under two in the service avail of standard cots and floor beds are available for those children over two years of age. Each of the care rooms in the service are stocked with an adequate amount of toys and resources all appropriate to the age and stage of the development of the child. In the 'blue bell' room for waddlers and toddlers interest areas include, sensory corner, soft play area, books, dolls, construction area, home area and dress up. In the 'sunflowers' room interest areas include home corners, puzzles and jigsaws, arts and crafts, library, construction and cars, shops and dress up. The outdoor area consists of a play houses, swings, slides, bike trikes, sensory tables. One smaller area is sectioned off for younger children in the blue bell room that has a variety of age-appropriate resources including trikes, blackboards, cars and playhouses. The service promotes outdoor play and all children attending the service have their own wellingtons and waterproofs for outdoor play.

Staff members were observed to be kind and gentle in their interactions with the children.

On the day of inspection in the sunflowers room children were observed learning all about autumn, a staff member had brought in some autumn leaves and the staff were using the leaves as a prompt to describe all about autumn. Elements of the aister model 'exploring and thinking' were evident as staff members were observed exploring learning in a holistic manner using sensory skills as well as verbal. ie children were observed with their socks off standing in a bucket of leaves and described the feeling. Staff were observed interacting in a kind manner allowing the children to lead their learning journey of autumn.

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:

- On the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service the door was secure. A buzz entry system was in place, which prevented persons from entering the service unauthorised and children from leaving the building unsupervised.
- Cleaning products in use in the playroom were stored in high shelving out of the reach of children.
- Materials and resources were in a good state of repair.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the preschool children on the day of inspection.
- Windows had restrictors in place as necessary.
- Blind chords on windows were secure.

Infection Control:

- Adequate hand washing facilities were provided in the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior and after meals.
- Children were observed to wash their hands regularly including on arrival to the service, before snacks and meals, following toilet use and outside play.

Administration of Medication:

- There was no medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- The service has a policy on safe sleep and staff are aware of their responsibilities regarding same.
- There is an air conditioning unit available in the sleep room to reduce temperatures as required.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation plans were on display throughout the service.
- The fire assembly point was clearly marked in the car park.
- The fire certification was displayed on the wall in the hallway with a service date of 25.07.2023

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Perishable items that were sent in from home for snacks were not stored in the refrigerator.

2. A trampoline that was observed in the outdoor play area was not for therapeutic intervention. This poses a risk to the safety of the children.
3. The flex of the thermometer in the sleep room was not secure to the wall and was a risk to children sleeping under the trailing flex.

Infection Control:

4. The surface mats in the outdoor slide area are torn and this posed an infection control hazard.
5. The foot operated bins available in the service are broken and need replacing. It is acknowledged that after the inspection the person in charge submitted evidence of purchase of new foot operated pedal bins for the service.
6. Hand hygiene observed by the inspector at nappy changing did not include the hand washing of the child after nappy changes.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. All perishable goods will be stored in a temperature-controlled fridge. Staff will check bags on arrival to the service and place perishables in fridge.
2. All trampolines have been moved off premises.
3. The flex attached to the room thermometer will be secure. Any future flexes will be secure prior to use.

Infection Control:

4. The outdoor mats have been removed. Staff will complete a risk assessment of the outdoor area.
5. Pedal bins have been purchased for the service and old broken bins removed.
6. Handwashing will take place after each nappy change. This will be discussed at support and supervision

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic and documentary evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographic and documentary evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The CAPA response and evidence submitted by the registered provider after the inspection has been reviewed by the inspector and the non-compliances found on inspection have now been addressed and will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

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

Compliance Information

1)

The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in each care room.

(3) (a), (b)

The person in charge ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained. This included the date, person's name, reason for entry and name of the person who approved access to the service.

(4)

The person in charge confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

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 person in charge was trained in first aid responder (FAR) and was immediately available for the children attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) The registered provider did not provide an adequately stocked first aid box that was available to children attending the preschool service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A new first aid kit has been ordered. First aid kit will be checked and equipment will be ordered before expiry dates.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The CAPA response and evidence submitted by the registered provider after the inspection has been reviewed by the inspector and the non-compliances found on inspection have now been addressed and will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of a current valid Insurance certificate until the 27.03.2023. The insurance provided cover for 70 children.