

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO052		
Name of Service:	Scooters Creche & Montessori		
Address of Service:	Rusheen Ard, Caltragh, Co. Sligo		
Eircode:	F91 HP49		
Name of Registered Provider:	Catriona Belton		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	15/02/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	44	PM 40
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

Description of service

Scooters Creche & Montessori full day care service is located in a residential area of Sligo town. A service is provided to children aged between 1 and 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 7:30am to 6:30pm as per the national register. The service also provides a school aged service.

Staffing

There were 12 adults present on the day of inspection, to include 9 adults that worked directly with the children. The person in charge and registered provider, provider cover as required. There was one adult employed as cook.

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 9,11,15,16,22,23,25,26 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 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, 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.

Compliance Information

(1) (a) (b).

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(1).(c).

All adults were aware of their roles and the lines of accountability in the preschool service.

(2) (a) (b)(d).

There were no new adults employed in the service since the last inspection on the 31.07.2023, confirmed by a review of previous records and the registered provider.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 15 staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

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 were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the preschool service. There were nine adults working directly with 44 children in the morning of the unannounced inspection and nine adults working directly with 40 children in the afternoon.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children ratio were provided on the day of the inspection in accordance with the required ratio considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as follows:

Baby Room: Two adults cared for six children aged one to two years in the morning and afternoon.

The Toddler room; Three adults cared for 12 children aged two to three years in the morning and two adults cared for 12 children in the afternoon.

Senior Montessori: Two adults cared for 13 children aged three years to five years in the morning and 10 children in the afternoon.

Junior Montessori: Two adults cared for 17 children aged three to four years in the morning and Two adults cared for 12 children in the afternoon.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

(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.

Compliance Information

1) (a-i)

15 records of the children attending the service were reviewed. The required information including the authorisation to collect the child, details of illness or special needs of the child, emergency contact and record of immunisations were fully completed for each child.

(3) (a)

The records in writing were available for inspection by the early years inspector.

(4)

The person in charge confirmed that the records are retained for the required period as set out in the regulations

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) (a-j).

On review of records available the registered provider had ensured that the required information including details of the adults working in the service, their qualifications, adult child ratios, the type of care provided, facilities, opening hours and policies and procedures of the service was in place. Attendance books and daily staff rosters were available in each care room. All accidents and incidents were recorded and signed by the parent or guardian.

(3). The registered provider ensured that all documents were made available to the inspector for review on the day of inspection.

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

All food and drink provided in the preschool is by the service in line with their healthy eating policy. On the day of inspection, Breakfast of cereal and toast was provided, a snack of a fruit platter and yoghurt, dinner consisted of fish fingers mash and beans and an afternoon snack of ham cheese and crackers. The chef on duty informed the inspector that where a child does not like the food on the menu an alternative of pasta and vegetable sauce is provided.

Dietary requirements are catered for with in the service with a coeliac diet prepared separately and in in line with guidelines. All allergens are noted and appear to be managed appropriately in the kitchen and in the care rooms.

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 into the service was found to be secured upon the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service, which prevented persons entering unauthorised and children from leaving the building unsupervised.
- All cleaning products in the care rooms were stored on high level shelving out of the reach of children.
- Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the preschool children.
- There were four highchairs with harness safety straps fitted in good condition.
- Leads and flexes were secure and inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The outdoor perimeter was secure with waste bins stored out of reach of children

Infection Control:

- There were adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet. Child friendly hand wash posters with picture instructions were placed above the wash basins.

Administration of Medication:

- The service had a medication administration policy in place and when interviewed staff were aware of their responsibilities for the safe administration of medication.
- Medication was stored in the office out of reach of children, clearly labelled and within the use by date.

Safe Sleep:

- The service had a designated sleep room with a total of five standard cots. One cot was stored in the office and used if required.
- The sleep room temperature measured 20.0°C on the day of inspection and staff took immediate attention to reduce this temperature prior to any child going to bed which was successful.

Fire Safety:

- All fire doors were clear from obstruction.
- Fire assembly pint was clearly noted to the rear of the property in the outdoor area.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for three staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Infection Control:

2. Snack provision on the morning included a fruit platter in two bowls, where children helped themselves to what they liked and then placed their fruit on the table. Individual plates had not been provided, Children had not washed hands prior to snack time and tables had not been cleaned prior to snack, therefore posing a risk of cross contamination

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was updated for the two staff members that was required. All vetting will be reviewed to ensure they are up to date.

Infection Control:

2. We have purchased extra bowls and plates so each child has their own, also we will make sure hand washing is carried out before all meals and snacks. All staff know that hand hygiene is carried out with the children before each meal/snack. Plates are provided for each child at snack time. Extra plates have been purchased to ensure all children have their own plate.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Documentary evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider to address the non-compliances found on inspection were reviewed by the inspectorate. This regulation is now compliant.

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) On the day of inspection 13 staff members employed in the service were trained in first aider response (FAR) training and were available to children attending the preschool service.

(2) (a) (b).

A Fully stocked first aid box is available in the main office and available to children at all times in the preschool 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.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,

(b) an employee, and

(c) an authorised person.

(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).

The registered provider had a log of all fire evacuation drills taking place in the service the most recent being January 2024.

(1) (b).

A service record to include the type of fire equipment provided and smoke alarms in place was reviewed with the most recent service date of 10.01.2024.

(2). (c).

These records were made available for review on the day to the authorised person.

(4).

The fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in each care room, outlining the safest route for evacuation.

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 insurance cover valid the 27.03.2024. The insurance provided cover for 70 Children.