

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO052
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Name of Service:	Scooters Creche & Montessori
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Address of Service:	Rusheen Ard, Caltragh, Co. Sligo
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Eircode:	F91 HP49
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Name of Registered Provider:	Catriona Belton
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	31/07/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	40	PM	40
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Markievicz House Barrack Street Sligo F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello and S Meehan
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

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 14 adults present on the day of inspection, to include 13 adults that worked directly with the children. The person in charge was available to provide cover where needed on the day of inspection. 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. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23 and 27 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 22 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.

Additional Information

The inspection had been triggered on receipt of information received by Tusla Early years inspectorate on the 25/07/2023.

Acknowledgments

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

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

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

(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) (b).

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

(2). (a), (b).

The records of fifteen staff employed in the service were reviewed. Two written and verified references from a past employer or a reputable source, in the absence of past employer were available in respect of all 15 staff members.

(c).

A garda vetting disclosure was available for fifteen staff employed in the service.

(d).

International police vetting was available for five members of staff who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4).

Thirteen adults employed and working directly with the children held a major award at level 5 or above in Early Childhood Care and Education on the national framework of qualifications.

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 40 pre-school children attending the service being supervised directly by 12 adults.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

Name of Room	Number of Children	Age Range of Children	No of Adults supporting	Required Number of Adults
Wobbler Room	10	1-2 Years	3	2
Toddler Room	11	2-3 Years	3	2
Senior Montessori	19	3-6 years	3	3

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:

(g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

(4) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises by a parent or guardian of a child but only in respect of information concerning that child.

Compliance Information

(1) (g)

The policies and procedures of the service in relation to regulation 10 were reviewed by inspectors and found that the policies and procedures are consistent with the services practices as observed on the day of inspection.

(k).

The details of any accident or injury involving a child attending the service are documented in the service.

(4)

The records in writing were available for inspection by the inspector on the day of inspection. There was evidence of information communicated with parents by way of parent's signature.

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

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

(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

(1)(a)(b).

Basic Needs

The service promoted a healthy eating policy and food was freshly prepared daily on site. On the day of inspection, dinner consisted of spaghetti bolognese with vegetables and afternoon snack consisted of freshly made vanilla and cinnamon French toast and yoghurt. Children were supported to be independent at mealtimes with appropriate utensils for the age and stage of development of the child. Bibs were used to protect the younger children's clothes during mealtimes and highchairs were used in the wobbler room for the comfort and safety of babies during mealtime. The atmosphere during mealtime was relaxed, with pleasant interaction among the children and staff members. Drinking water was freely available throughout the day.

Children who were toilet trained were supported and encouraged to use the toilet as needed by the staff members. Child friendly pictures for appropriate hand hygiene were displayed above the sinks and children were prompted by staff in hand hygiene after toileting. Nappy changing observed ensured that the dignity and privacy of each child was respected, nappy changing was undertaken regularly as scheduled and more frequently if required as staff responded to the children's cues.

The children's individual sleep needs were met within the service. Cots were provided for children under two years of age. Low level beds were available for older children requiring rest and sleep time. Transitions to sleep time was observed to be smooth and peaceful, with low level lighting and story time prior to rest. In the wobbler room, children were observed sleeping on demand following cues of tiredness throughout the day.

Supporting Relationships

The service took measures to support children's relationships including displaying photographs of children's families in the care rooms. On discussion with staff members communication with families was maintained in a variety of ways including text messages, social media and written records for the younger children.

The children guided the program of care and education in the indoor and outdoor areas. Inspectors observed children moving freely, playing, and exploring their environment. Children were observed enjoying free play in the outdoor play areas. All rooms had a suitable amount of materials and resources suitable to the age and stage of development of the children. Equipment in the rooms included home corners, construction area, arts and crafts, books, building blocks, dolls and sensory toys. The children's individual artwork displayed in each room provided colour and warmth to the environment.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, it was observed that meal provision in the service was as follows:

Breakfast 07.30-09.00 (as required)

Dinner: 11.30-12.00

Afternoon snack 14.15

Later afternoon snack 17.00.

1. For those children attending the sessional service ECCE year from 09.30-12.30, only one meal is offered to children. The recommended provision is one meal and one snack for a sessional service.
2. The timing of food served was inadequate. The main hot meal of the day was served at 11.30am and needs to be reviewed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A mid-morning snack has now been added to the daily menu in the service.
2. A meal plan is in place within the service

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic and documentation has been submitted to the inspectorate by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The evidence and the corrective and preventative actions submitted for the non compliances found upon inspection in relation to regulation 22 have been reviewed by the inspector and regulatory compliance has now been achieved.

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 from entering the service without authorization and children from leaving the premises.
- Cleaning products in use in the care rooms were stored on high shelving out of the reach of children.
- All toys and play equipment were safe and in good condition in each of the care rooms and outdoor area.
- There were two highchairs with harness safety straps in good condition.
- Leads and flexes were secure and inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the preschool children on the day of inspection.

Infection Control:

- Adequate handwashing facilities were provided in the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Child friendly hand washing posters with picture instructions were placed above wash hand basins.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior and after meal times.
- The materials and resources throughout the preschool were visibly clean with cleaning schedules in place and up to date.
- The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication documentation was reviewed and written parental consent of medication, including temperature reducing medication was available.
- There was no medication administered on day of inspection, however on interview staff demonstrated their knowledge of their procedures for the safe administration of medication.

Safe Sleep:

- There was a designated sleep room available for children less than two years with a total of 5 cots located of the wobbler room.
- A thermometer was located in the sleep room to record room temperature.
- Sleep records were maintained to include the colour, position and breathing pattern of the child, these were updated after the 10 minute observation checks.
- Stackable beds were available for older children who required sleep provision.

Fire Safety:

- All fire doors were free from obstruction.
- Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in each of the care rooms.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- The nappy disposable bin provided was not a foot operated bin which is an infection control hazard.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The Registered provider has submitted evidence of foot operated nappy disposal bins in operation in the service.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence received.

Summary Comment

The evidence and the corrective and preventative actions submitted for the non-compliances found upon inspection in relation to regulation 23 have been reviewed by the inspector and regulatory compliance has now been achieved.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, it was observed that the 40 children were being supervised by 12 staff members. There was appropriate supervision throughout the day, including indoor and outdoor activities. Staff supervised children at mealtimes, prompting and encouraging them as appropriate. Staff were observed to supervise children at toileting, encouraging independence and prompting as required for hand hygiene.

Break times were covered by additional staff members rostered, to maintain ratios in the service.

Sleep times were supervised by staff present in the rooms and 10-minute observations and physical checks where staff were not sitting in sleep rooms.