

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015TY085 |
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| Name of Service: | Ayle View Creche |
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| Address of Service: | Ayle, Upperchurch, Oola, Co. Tipperary |
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| Eircode: | E34 D886 |
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| Name of Registered Provider: | Una O'Neill |
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| Service type: | Full Day, Sessional |
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| Date of Inspection: | 03/04/2024 |
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| No of pre-school children: | AM | 12 | PM | 12 |
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| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Tusla Child and Family Agency, Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Tipperary. |
| Inspection undertaken by: | E Cullen |
| 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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not applicable |
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Description of service

Established in 2001 Ayle View Creche offers full day care and sessional programmes five days per week, 50 weeks per year. The sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme is provided for 38 weeks per year. The service is registered to cater for children from 0 to 6 years of age, however on the day of inspection was catering for children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service is also registered to provide school aged care. The premises is a detached single storey building adjacent to the registered provider's residence. It consists of three early years rooms, sanitary accommodation and a sleep room. There was a cabin to the rear of the premises for staff use. The outdoor area was to the rear and side of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs six staff members who work directly with children. The registered provider also works directly with children in the service. Staff members held qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care at Level 5 and 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 (2)(4) – Management and Recruitment, 11 (1)(2) – Staffing levels, 15 – Record of a pre-school child , 16 (1) (h, l, j, k)- Record in relation to pre-school service, 22 – Food and Drink, 25 - First Aid, 26 – Fire safety measures , and 28 – Insurance,; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 25 - First Aid. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 – Record of a pre-school child and 16 (1) (h, l, j, k)- Record in relation to pre-school service. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the toddler, preschool one and two rooms.

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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2) Documentation was reviewed for the six staff members employed by the service and the registered provider.

(a)(b) Two validated references were available for each staff member from either a past employer, or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 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 was not required as no staff member had lived outside the state for a period over 6 months.

(4) Certificates of qualification were available on file demonstrating that staff members held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above 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) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff were working directly with the children at all times. There were 12 preschool children and 3 school aged children with 6 staff members directly supervising them during the morning of the inspection.

(2) On the morning of the inspection, the staff to child ratios were maintained as follows throughout the service:

- In the toddler room, there were 4 children aged 1 to 2.5 years old being cared for by 2 staff.
- Preschool room one and two were combined, there were 8 children aged 2.5 to 6 years old being cared for by 4 staff. There were also 3 school aged children in this group.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) – (i) Prior to a child commencing in the service, all parents and guardians were issued with a child registration form. This registration form contained all of the required information for parents and guardians to complete.

A sample of ten child registration forms were reviewed on the day of inspection, and all were completed in full with appropriate declarations signed by parents and guardians.

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:

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(h)(i)(j)(k)

The registered provider ensured that all relevant information was accessible and available for inspection by authorised persons. Staff rosters were available in each attendance book. Each early years room was responsible for maintaining records of attendance, administration of medication and any accident or incident records.

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 an adequate healthy eating policy which was shared with parents and guardians. All food and drink was supplied by parents and guardians daily. There were refrigerators available on the premises for storage of perishable food items. The frequency and timings of snacks and meals were appropriate to meet the needs of children. Each child attending the service for over five hours was provided with a hot meal in the middle of the day. Drinks stations were available in each room and additional food and drink was available if required by children.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) A person certified in a recognised PHECC First Aid Response (FAR) course was not available on the premises on the day of inspection. It is acknowledged that there were staff members available with basic first on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has made a course booking for two staff members for FAR first Aid training. The earliest dates were 8th, 9th and 10th of May. Staff members will do a refresher course every 2 years going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of booking confirmation and receipt of payment.

Summary Comment

Evidence submitted meets the requirements of the Childcare Act (Early Years Services) Regulations (2016). Completion of the training will be assessed on next inspection.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a record of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The most recent fire drill was recorded as having taken place in February 2024.

(b) There was a record available demonstrating that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 01 November 2023 and the smoke alarm system was last serviced on 12 September 2023.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service demonstrated insurance cover for a full day care for 30 children. The insurance policy commenced 28 March 2024 and will expire 27 March 2025.