

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY103
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Name of Service:	Daisy Chain Daycare
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Address of Service:	Knockanrawley Resource Centre, Knockanrawley, Tipperary Town, Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E34 D832
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Name of Registered Provider:	Noreen Meagher
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	30/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	49	PM	39
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary E91RF38
Inspection undertaken by:	C Ryan & A McNamara
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	N/A
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Description of service

Daisy Chain Daycare is a community early years service which was established in 1993. The service operates Monday to Friday, 08.30-18:00, providing sessional, part-time, and full day early years services to children aged from 1 to 6 years of age.

Staffing

There were 29 staff members employed in the service. The registered provider does not work in the service. All staff members employed in the service to work directly with the children held at least a major award in early childhood care and education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or were in the process of completing their childcare qualification under the community employment scheme.

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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 19 (a) Health, welfare, and development of the child,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,

Regulation 25 First aid,
Regulation 26 Fire safety,
Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures and
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 inspectors wish 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*

(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 deputy designated person in charge who was able to deputise, as required.

(b) The person in charge confirmed that they or their deputy are always present while the service is open.

(2) The staff files for 29 staff were reviewed on the day.

(a)(b) Two validated references were available for each of the staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available on file for each staff member. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every three years in all cases. This is reported on under Regulation 23.

(d) Police vetting disclosures were available for nine staff working in the service, who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Certificates of qualification for staff working directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Qualification Framework or qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care of the children.

(2) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection were above the minimum regulatory requirements.

Room	Age (years)	Minimum required ratio	Child: adult (morning)	Child: adult (afternoon)
Pre-school 2	3-5	11:1	12:3	11:3
Pre-school 1	2-5	11:1	18:3	13:3
Playgroup	1-2	1:5	15:4	11:4
	2-3	1:6		
Toddler	1-2	1:5	4:3	4:3

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service focusing on the areas of basic needs, interactions and physical environment on the day of inspection.

Morning and afternoon snacks were provided by parents in all rooms. A hot meal was prepared by the chef and served in each classroom. On the day of inspection, the meal consisted of meat balls, pasta, garlic bread and broccoli. A three-week menu plan was displayed detailing the wide variety of meals provided to the children attending the service. Children were observed to eat at their own pace and were offered more food. Children had access to their water bottles/beakers and were able to get a drink throughout the day.

The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own level of personal care appropriate to their level of development. For example, children who were toilet trained were able to access the toilet throughout the day. Tissues were freely available for children to blow their own noses and wipe their faces.

Designated rest areas were available in the rooms. Children could use this area to relax/rest or to opt out of an activity if they wished. Sleep was facilitated within the service. Children who needed a sleep during the day were provided with the opportunity to sleep/rest. Separate sleep rooms were available for children under 2 who required sleep.

Children had the opportunity to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors.

Children's behaviour was consistently supported in a competent and positive manner by the staff. Transitions between activities were managed well. Staff prompted children when it was time to clean up and prepare for their next activity.

In each of the playrooms, a variety of defined areas of interest were provided for the children to play with. These included a construction area, kitchen area, reading area, and craft area. Labelled low-level shelving

provided children with access to a wide selection of activities suitable for the age and stage of the children in each of the classrooms.

Adequate space was available for children to engage in both floor and table play independently and in groups. Children in the preschool rooms were observed to engage in circle time, dancing, playdough and a range of tabletop activities. Children in the toddler and playgroup rooms were observed participating in floor play with blocks and cars, a cutting activity was also available for children on a tray.

The outdoor play area to the side and rear of the premises was divided into a designated play space for each room. These consisted of grass and concrete spaces which housed a sandpit, mud kitchen and a shed for storage of wheeled toys and bikes. Children used the outdoor space daily, and they rotated between the different areas.

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 front door entrance to the premises was secured with a keypad lock and buzzer.

Visitors to the service were required to sign the visitors book on arrival to the premises.

The outdoors areas were fully enclosed.

Accident and incident reports reviewed were maintained in line with the service policy.

Infection control:

There was warm water, liquid hand soap and hand towels available in all toilets and nappy changing areas.

The staff were observed to supervise children's hand washing before snack and after returning inside from outdoor play.

The service was cleaned and well maintained, with cleaning schedules fully recorded.

Lunch boxes that included perishable food items were stored in the fridges in the playrooms in line with safe food guidance.

Soothers were sterilised daily within the service.

Bed linen was laundered within the services. Children has their own designated bed linen.

Administration of medication:

The service had a medication administration policy and records for recording of medication. Records reviewed indicated that staff were following the policy, records were correctly maintained, dated, signed and witnessed by staff and signed by parents. Medications were stored in a wall mounted cupboard or in the kitchen and were in accessible to children.

Safe sleep:

The service had a safe sleep policy. It has two small sleep rooms with cots for children under 2. There were sleep floor mattresses and a designated sleep area for children over 2. Staff were observed doing sleep checks every 10 minutes in line with the policy. Staff remained in the room and monitored sleeping children who slept on the floor mattresses.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

1. Several doors to the rear of the building were unsecured. This posed a risk that unauthorised adults could enter the premises unhindered, and a child could potentially exit unsupervised to the back of the service. One of the open doors allowed for direct access to a playroom that was used for children to sleep.
2. A number of fire exit doors were obstructed with toys and equipment. Corridors and the stairwell were cluttered with toys, equipment and furniture not in use. This posed a risk of obstruction in the event of an emergency and a trip hazard. The fire exit door was obstructed in one of the sleep rooms with stackable beds.
3. The area outside one of the sleep rooms was also cluttered and posed as a trip hazard in the event of an emergency.
4. A child was observed placed to sleep beside a radiator.
5. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every three years. Garda vetting records were available for all staff members. However, two 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:

1. Children's hands were not washed after nappy changing procedures. The inspector observed the procedure on a number of occasions during the day and did not see handwashing take place for these children.

2. A staff member did not change gloves or aprons or wash their hands between each nappy changing procedure.
3. Mattress/ mattress covers on cots were not waterproof, and therefore could not be adequately cleaned which posed as risk of infection.

Safe Sleep:

1. There were no thermometers available in some rooms of the service for staff to ensure comfortable or safe temperatures. For example, there were none available in one of the sleep rooms and in the baby room while that space was being used for sleep by older children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Four doors have been fitted with a security keypad locking system.
 - Rear door leading to the stairway area.
 - Door from the childcare corridor to the stairway area.
 - Door leading from the sleep/sensory room from the corridor to the main Knockanrawley centre.
 - Door from Knockanrawley centre corridor to toddler/playroom.

Childcare staff only have been provided with the door code to access childcare facilities.

2. The fire exit doors which were obstructed along with the sensory room have been decluttered. The area under the stairwell was decluttered before the inspectors left on the day of inspection. A notice has been put in place highlighting these areas need to be kept clutter free.
3. Area outside the sleep room has been decluttered.

A room leaders meeting has taken place, followed by individual room meetings where all staff were informed of the necessity of keeping fire doors clear and areas decluttered. Items not required for daily use are now stored in the attic or storeroom.

4. The sleep area has been increased to accommodate children sleeping away from the radiator.

Staff have been informed via memo that no child is to sleep beside a radiator.

5. Two staff whose vetting was out of date since August 2024 have been revetted and disclosures submitted to Tusla Early Years.

An excel sheet has no been set up by the service to monitor staff vetting dates.

Infection Control:

1. All children's hands are washed after each nappy change.

All staff have been notified to follow the current nappy changing procedures and notices in relation to this procedure have been placed in nappy changing areas.

2. All staff have been retrained in accordance with the correct procedures regarding the disposal of gloves and aprons after each nappy change.

Notices on correct hygiene procedures are in place and all new staff members are to be trained in this area on induction.

3. Waterproof mattress protector and new mattress have been purchased and are cleaned regularly.

Safe sleep policy has been updated to ensure waterproof mattress/mattress covers are used and cleaned.

Safe Sleep:

1. All rooms are now fitted with thermometers.

Thermometers are checked regularly to ensure they are in working condition, ensuring safe temperatures for all children. This procedure has been added to our safe sleep policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

General safety: Photographic evidence submitted. Up to date vetting was submitted to the inspectorate for two staff members.

Infection control: Updated procedure and photographic evidence submitted.

Safe sleep: Updated policy and photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 roster demonstrated that the manager planned for FAR trained staff to be present throughout the hours of opening.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(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) Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 4 September 2024.

(1)(b) A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in September 2024.

(4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An in-date certificate was in place to demonstrate that the service was insured to provide full day care for the number of children the service is registered to accommodate.