

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WH016		
Name of Service:	Mellowes Childcare		
Address of Service:	Moygrehan, Athboy, Co. Westmeath		
Eircode:	C15 W288		
Name of Registered Provider:	Deborah McGuinness		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	17/09/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	75	PM 63
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, SAP Office, St. Loman's Campus, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.		
Inspection undertaken by:	C. O' Connor Hughes & K. Murphy		
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.		

Description of service

This service is registered as a full day care, part time and sessional service. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The age range of children currently enrolled in the service is 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis.

The Early Years' Service is located in a two-storey purpose-built premises. On-site parking and set down areas are located to the side of the premises. Six pre-school rooms, namely the wobbler (1-2 years) toddler 1 (18 months to 24 months) toddler 2 (1 to 2 years) blue (4 to 5 years) yellow (2.8 to 3.5 years) green (3 years) and red (2.8 to 3 years) accommodated the children in the service.

A cinema, staff room, office and kitchen are provided. A large outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the premises. An adventure centre is co-located adjacent to the outdoor play area. The service is located on the outskirts of the town of Athboy, County Westmeath.

Staffing

Sixteen adults were working with children in the service on the 17 September 2024. A cook was employed and present in the service. The registered provider was not present for the inspection.

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;

Regulation 9- Management and recruitment - (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (3) (4)

Regulation 11 -Staffing levels - (1) (2) (4)(a)(b) (8)(a)

Regulation 18- Copy of Act

Regulation 19- Health, welfare and development of child - (1)(a)

Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play (1)(a)(3)(a)

Regulation 22- Food and drink

Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 24- Checking in and out and record of attendance (1)(3)(a)(b)

Regulation 25- First aid - (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 -Fire safety measures - (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28 – Insurance

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under;

Regulation 8 - Change in circumstance – (1)

Regulation 29 – Premises – (b)(c)(e)

Regulation 30 - Space measurement – (1)

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

18 September 2024.

- An immediate action notice in respect of Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (9)(2)(c) Garda Vetting was issued to the registered provider.
- An immediate action notice in respect of Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child Safe sleep was issued to the registered provider.
The responses submitted by the registered provider on the 19 September 2024 were accepted.
- This service was referred to the TUSLA registration office as the registered provider opened a pre-school room without notifying TUSLA registration office.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the deputy persons 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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)

A person in charge was available in the service. The registered provider who is also the designated person in charge was not present for the inspection.

(b)

Two deputy designated persons in charge alternated and were present for the morning and afternoon of the inspection.

Nineteen files were reviewed including the registered provider. The following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers and from a source other than a past employer in respect of seventeen of the nineteen files reviewed.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of eighteen of the nineteen staff files reviewed. In respect of fifteen of the eighteen files reviewed the service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. 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 in respect of three of the eighteen files reviewed. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d)

Police vetting was available in respect of three staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

Staff members working directly with children attending the service and held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(c)

A clear management structure was not in place in the service. There was no documentation available or displayed to indicate any assigned roles or responsibilities allocated to named staff members including the person in charge of the service in the absence of the registered provider.

(2)(a)(b)

Two written references in respect of two recently employed staff members were not validated.

(2)(c)

A Garda vetting disclosure was not available in respect of one staff member who had commenced employment in the service recently.

An immediate action notice in respect of Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (9)(2)(c) Garda Vetting was issued to the registered provider.

(2)(d)

Police vetting was not available in respect of two staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(9)(1)(c)

There was a management structure in place with 2 staff members in charge in the absence of the registered provider. A policy is in place with the two deputy staff members named. This will also be displayed on our notice board.

9(2)(a)(b)

Each reference has been checked and validated.

Going forward management will ensure references are validated.

9(2)(c)

The Garda vetting disclosure was submitted to TUSLA on the 19 September 2024.

Response to Immediate Action notice received on the 19 September 2024.

9(2)(d)

The two staff members have their police vetting on file.

Management will ensure all staff who have lived outside of the state for a period of time will have police vetting.

This will be monitored during periodic inspection of the service staff records.

Supporting documentation submitted

References submitted.

Garda vetting submitted.

Police vetting submitted.

Summary Comment

The non compliances have been addressed. The registered provider has agreed to submit the International child protection certificate in respect of one staff member to TUSLA Early Years Inspectorate upon receipt.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

(2)

There were seventy-five children attending the service supervised directly by sixteen adults.

(8)(a)

Documentation reviewed indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

A copy of the of Part V11A (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No.40 of 2013)) of the Act and Regulations was available for inspection by (a)(b)(c).

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)

Children were engaged in the various play opportunities available to them in the pre-school rooms supported by staff. Children were observed at free play, tabletop activities and extended outdoor play time in the sunshine. Younger children were observed to crawl and explore their environment.

Children washed their hands before snacks and meals supported by staff members. Bibs were applied to protect children's clothes. Younger children were assisted as needed at mealtimes. Children enjoyed conversations and interactions during snack and mealtimes. Nappy changing was carried out on a regular basis and as needed. Older children went to toilet independently supervised by staff.

Staff were positive towards children using individual names, maintaining eye contact and giving positive praise on the completion of activities. Younger children settling into the service were given hugs and cuddles as needed. Partnership with parents was in place with a verbal handover given on collection and communication to parents via a handheld electronic device depicting their child's daily routine of play and work activities.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs of the Child

The relief staff member was not assigned to provide assistance for younger children that required extra support due to their individual care needs particularly at mealtimes and nappy changing times in the wobbler room. At 12:25, upon request of the inspector the relief staff member returned to the wobbler room to assist with the mealtime preparation and assistance to young children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a)

Should staff feel they require support they will be able to call on our floating staff member.

This has been discussed with the members of staff and they have been instructed if they require assistance they can call on the floating staff member.

Summary Comment

The practice stated by the registered provider will address the non compliance and will be reviewed on the next TUSLA inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Suitable play equipment was provided indoors and outdoors which included toys and equipment for construction, tabletop activities, arts and crafts, sensory play and home corners with the exception of the non-compliance outlined below.

(b)

Rest areas were noted in the pre-school rooms for children to relax. Two separate sleep rooms equipped with 10 cots were available in the service.

(3)(a)

The outdoor play areas were noted to have a variety of toys and play equipment for use by the children.

Interest areas included a sand room, climbing units with slides and climbing walls, swing sets, wooden structures including a shop, a ship and post office. The surface noted were mostly fine gravel stone.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

1. Toddler room 1 and the red room required more toys and equipment to allow for child led imaginative play.
2. Play materials were located on high level shelving in toddler room 1 and out of the reach of the children in attendance.

(1)(b)

1. Sheets were not available or in place on the seventeen low beds used by sleeping children attending toddler rooms 1 and 2. Children were observed to lay directly on the surface of the low-level beds.
2. A 50 cm space was not in place between the cots in the toddler sleep room.

(3)(a)

In the outdoor area the mat located under the slide in the toddler play area was full of gravel stones. Therefore, it did not provide a soft landing for young children and requires replacement with a suitable alternative.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a)

1. Staff were spoken to in relation to this and the reason for this is to allow a rotation of toys. Management have now installed more lower-level shelving and moved the toys to these to allow easy access to the children. In addition to all the toys that are available we took Tulsa's suggestion on board and purchased more toys and equipment.
2. With the newly installed lower level shelving the toys can be easily accessed by the children.

(1)(b)

1. Staff have been instructed to ensure they always use a bed sheet.
2. Management will review the cot positions to see can we achieve this.

20 (3)(a)

The pebble on the mat was removed and the clean mat was reinstated.
The matting in the centre will be inspected regularly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs submitted.

Summary Comment

The non compliances have been addressed.

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

Healthy food for the morning and afternoon consisting of a variety of sandwiches, crackers, dairy, fruit and vegetable produce were provided by parents for children attending on a sessional, part time and full day care basis.

A list of the main meals provided by the service was available for review.

Non-Compliance Information

An insufficient quantity of food was provided for the main meal for the 62 children (24 aged 1-3 years) & (38 aged 3 -6 years) attending on a full day care basis.

1. The protein requirement was insufficient, only 2,000 grams of chicken was provided to feed 62 children.
2. A vegetable component was not included in the meal for the children.
3. A dairy component was not included in the meal for the children attending the blue (ECCE 2) and yellow (ECCE 1) rooms.
4. The jar of processed “curry sauce” and the jar of processed “butter chicken cooking sauce” contained salt which is not recommended for a healthy diet.
5. A menu plan detailing how the requirements for two meals and two snacks for children attending on a full day care basis was being managed within the service was not available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Management have spoken with the cook to ensure correct quantities are served to the children.
2. A vegetable requirement has been brought to the cook's attention.
3. Staff and cook will ensure that a dairy component is included daily.
4. Management have spoken to the cook to see what other options are available.
5. A hot meal menu plan was displayed. The cook will now put a full menu plan in place.

1. The cook will ensure the required quantities are cooked.
2. This will be included going forward.
3. This cook and staff are now responsible for this to be included daily.
4. The cook will look at other options going forward.
5. A new menu plan will be drawn up and displayed on our notice boards.

Supporting documentation submitted

Menu plans submitted.

Summary Comment

The non compliance has been addressed. The corrective actions stated by the registered provider will be assessed on the next TUSLA inspection.

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 entrance door to the service was secure and accessed through a bell and key coded system.

Infection Control:

Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks and after using the toilet.

Soothers were stored in individual containers named for each child.

Natural ventilation was available through openable windows in the pre-school rooms and in the pre-existing sanitary accommodation and nappy changing room.

All toys and materials were easily cleanable. Cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. Warm water, paper hand towel and liquid soap was available in the pre-existing sanitary accommodation.

Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature. Medication was stored correctly in the service.

Safe Sleep:

A record of the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children was noted in a sleep log. A staff member was observed to physically check sleeping children every ten minutes. An environmental temperature of 20 degrees Celsius was recorded in the sleep rooms.

Fire Safety:

Fire exit routes were unobstructed in the service. A fire assembly point was noted to the front of the premises.

Outing:

The service does not undertake outings.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety

1. A risk assessment was not available for the climbing frame with two slides in the wobbler room. At 12:10, a child was observed to sustain an injury against the base of the slide and received first aid treatment from the staff member.
2. A care plan was not available for children requiring additional support and assistance in the wobbler room.
3. On the first floor there were no safety measures in place to protect children attending the green and yellow rooms from gaining direct access to the staircase which posed a potential risk of harm to a child.
4. A risk assessment and self-closing gate was not in place at any point along the entrance pathway to the service to safeguard against a child gaining access to the car park area at collection time or on return from outdoor play.
The children had access to the unsecured pathway as they crossed between the secured outdoor play area and the secured entrance door to the premises.
5. One child was observed wearing hooped earrings and two children were observed wearing necklaces which posed a potential risk of harm to the children if these jewellery pieces were pulled or got caught.

6. Telephone cords in the pre-school rooms were low hanging and accessible which posed a potential risk of harm to children.
7. In the green room a safety lock was not in place on the doors of the undercounter storage press making the content of the cupboard and the hazards within accessible.
8. The most recent Garda vetting disclosure presented in respect of three staff members was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Infection Control:

1. A record of refrigerator temperatures was not available in the toddler and wobbler rooms.
2. A refrigerator was not available for the storage of perishable goods in the red, green, yellow and blue rooms.
3. A foot operated pedal bin was not available in the green room for the hygienic disposal of waste.

Safe Sleep:

1. At 13:10, a one-year-old baby was observed sleeping on the mat surface of the play area in the wobbler room without adult supervision.

An immediate action notice in respect of Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child Safe Sleep was issued to the registered provider.
2. Risk assessments for children aged 18 to 24 months observed sleeping on low-level beds were not available in respect of 11 children in toddler rooms 1 and 2.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety

1. Following the superficial injury to the child's lip we have re modelled the climbing frame.
2. A care plan was discussed with the parent and another agency who visited the centre recently. A care plan is being put in place for the child. Timeframe 2 weeks.
3. A gate will be installed at the top of the staircase. Timeframe 2 weeks
4. Management are in the process of having a gate fitted. Timeframe 1 month.
5. Parents have been asked to remove all jewellery from children attending.
6. Management had clips on the phone cords and an additional measure has been added.
7. A new lock was fitted.
8. Management have re applied for the staff Garda vetting to be updated.

1. Management have rebuilt the climbing frame.
2. A care plan is being put in place for this child.
3. A gate will be fitted.
4. An exterior gate will be installed. Management have consulted with a company and they will call to the centre to take measurements and begin manufacturing.
5. The service jewellery policy has been circulated to all parents.
6. The phone cords have been shortened to their maximum and secured tight.
7. The secure lock will prevent access.
8. All vetting will be checked regularly to ensure it in in date.

Infection Control:

1. Temperature gauges were in place inside the fridges and a recording chart is now in place.
 2. A refrigerator is now available in all rooms.
 3. A pedal bin has been purchased for this room.
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1. A record chart is now in place.
 2. A refrigerator is now available in all rooms.
 3. A pedal bin will be available.

Safe Sleep:

1. Management have spoken to the members of staff in relation to this issue. This issue is now addressed comprehensively with staff members.
Appropriate action will be taken to ensure this once off occurrence never happens again.
Management have discussed and addressed this issue with the child's mother.
2. Staff consult with a parent prior to moving a child onto a floor bed. This was done during daily communications with the parents. Going forward staff will conduct a risk assessment. Going forward staff will conduct a risk assessment.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographs submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographs submitted.

Safe Sleep:

Response to Immediate Action notice received on the 19 September 2024.

Risk assessment submitted.

Summary Comment

The non compliances have been addressed with the exception of the self-closing gate which will be assessed on the next TUSLA 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.

Compliance Information

(1)

The records of arrival and departure reviewed verified that each child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by a staff member.

Non-Compliance Information

(3)(a)(b)

A visitor log for the service was not available for review with the following details included.

- Date.
- Person's name.
- Contact number.
- Reason for entry.

- The name of person who approved access.
- The check in and out times.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A sign in book is now available for people who enter the centre.

A sign in book is now in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

A sign in sheet.

Summary Comment

The non compliance has been addressed.

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)
Two adults were qualified in First Aid response (FAR) were available on the premises during the hours of operation.
- (2)(a)
First aid boxes were available in the service.
- (b)
A first aid box was accessible to children in the pre-school building.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(b)

A first aid box stocked in line with the TUSLA Quality and Regulation Framework was not immediately accessible to children when playing outdoors. The outdoor play area used by children attending the green, yellow and blue rooms was located approximately 200 metres from the main premises.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

When an accident/incident occurs, children were always brought back into the centre to be cared for where the main first aid box is located. Management have now purchased two portable first aid boxes for outdoor use.

We have now purchased two portable first aid boxes for outdoor use.

Staff bring out a portable first aid box when outdoors.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of first aid boxes.

Summary Comment

The non compliance has been addressed.

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)

A written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 30 August 2024.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises were serviced in September 2023.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the pre-school rooms.

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 current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service. The expiry date noted was 27 March 2025.

Additional Regulation inspected

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C (2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider did not submit a change in circumstance to TUSLA registration office to indicate that the original "soft play" room and dining room in the service were to be altered and repurposed to provide a pre-school room and sanitary accommodation.

The room had commenced operation in September 2024. Nine children were present during the inspection on the 17 September 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Due to the urgency of needing to bring an existing room into operation Management were unable to adhere to the standard notification time frame. Management were intending to consult with Tusla during this process as the provision of the room was a work in progress. Management have submitted a change in circumstances application to Tusla.

Supporting documentation submitted

Change in circumstance form.

Summary Comment

This issue is ongoing with TUSLA registration office.

Additional Regulation inspected

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

(b)

Yellow Room (ECCE 1)

This room located on the first floor which comprises of a previously designated “soft play” room and a dining room has been combined, altered and repurposed to provide an additional ECCE classroom within the service.

(Refer to Regulation 8)

1. Protective safety measures had not been put in place in respect of one of the first-floor windows located on the wall directly opposite the sink and wash hand basin which had full range opening.

- Protective safety measures had not been put in place in respect of the two velux windows located in the lower aspect of the roof angle which had full range opening.

(c)

Sanitary accommodation adjacent to yellow room (ECCE 1)

This room located on the first floor which comprises of a previously designated dining room has been altered and repurposed to provide additional sanitary accommodation within the service.

(Refer to Regulation 8)

There was no provision made for either natural or mechanical ventilation in the sanitary accommodation.

(e)

Sanitary accommodation adjacent to yellow room (ECCE 1)

This room located on the first floor which comprises of a previously designated dining room has been altered and repurposed to provide additional sanitary accommodation within the service.

(Refer to Regulation 8)

- An openable “hatch” was located between the third toilet cubicle and the adjacent kitchen where food was prepared.
- The material used on the three cubicle doors and associated dividers was porous and not wipeable or cleanable making it unsuitable for use in sanitary accommodation.
- There was no door handle on the cubicle doors for the doors.
- Wall mounted centre feed dispensers were not in place for the hygienic use of paper towel in the sanitary accommodation.
- Cold running water was noted at the three wash hand basins which was inadequate to support appropriate handwashing.
- The water pressure flow of water at the wash hand basins was inadequate to support appropriate handwashing.
- The push down mechanism for the operation of the taps at the wash hand basins were stiff and unsuitable for the children to use independently without the direct assistance of a staff member.
- A foot operated pedal bin was not available in the sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

(b)

- 1.This has been reported to the window company.
2. This has been reported to the window company.
1. Works will be complete in the coming days to ensure the correct operation of this window.
- 2.These devices will be fitted in the coming days by the window company.

(c) A mechanical ventilation device was on order and management are awaiting for it's instalment.

A mechanical device will be fitted in the coming weeks.

(e)

- 1.This has now been temporary sealed.
 2. This has been painted and sealed.
 3. Management are awaiting on child friendly handles to arrive.
 4. A temporary hand towel dispenser was in place while waiting for our permanent solution.
 5. A mixing valve was fitted on installation of these sinks.
 6. The plumber has been notified of this.
 - 7.These are brand new taps and has been reported to the plumber.
 8. A pedal bin has been provided.
-
1. A plastering company will attend to permanently seal up this area.
 2. This timberwork has been sealed so it is wipeable and cleanable
 3. Handles have been fitted.
 4. A electric hand dryer has been fitted.
 5. We have got in touch with our plumber and asked him to check this issue.
 6. This will be inspected by our plumber.
 7. These taps will need to be adjusted to allow for easier use.
 - 8.A pedal bin is provided.

Summary Comment

29(b)(c)(e)

The corrective actions stated by the registered provider will be reviewed on the upcoming Fit for Purpose inspection.

Additional Regulation inspected

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

Wobbler room

It was observed that adequate space was not utilised to provide the children attending wobbler room 1 with a comfortable space at mealtimes.

At 12:30, seven children were transitioned into a space in a divided kitchen area in the room with three staff members. The measurement of the kitchen area was recorded at 8m² approximately. The space requirement for each child aged 1 to 2 years of age is 2.8m².

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Management have re structured the climbing frame in the wobbler room 1 and this has created a little more space in the eating area. The staff will assess the possibility to have two sittings for feeding time.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs submitted.

Summary Comment

The practice stated by the registered provider will address the non compliance and be assessed on the next TUSLA inspection.