

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW115			
Name of Service:	Ashvale Creche Ltd			
Address of Service:	Ashvale House, Ballynerrin Upper, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow			
Eircode:	A67 H978			
Name of Registered Provider:	Riona Long			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	07/12/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	52	PM	36
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.			
Inspection undertaken by:	M. Condon & O Quill			
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

Ashvale Creche operates in a purposely adapted premise, adjacent to Registered Provider's home, which is situated on the outskirts of Wicklow town. There are extensive outdoor areas on the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment. This service provides sessional, part-time and a full day care service to pre-school children who are currently aged fifteen months to five years of age. The service also offers care to school aged children during after school hours and during school holidays. The opening hours are from 08.00 to 18.00 daily and the service caters for a maximum of 61 children.

Staffing

On the day of inspection eleven adults provided direct care to pre-school children. The manager and assistant manager were present and available to give assistance in the rooms as needed.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 person in charge, deputy 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.*

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The Registered Provider and deputy person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspectors.

(2) There were eighteen staff employed, which included the cook. These files were reviewed on the day of the inspection.

(a)(b) There were thirty-six written and validated references from a past employer or from a reputable source in the absence of a past employer reference.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for eighteen staff members.

(d) Not applicable. as no staff member had lived in another state for a period longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(3) It was evident that all procedures as specified in paragraph (2) above were carried out prior to any staff member having access to a child in the service.

(4) All staff members employed hold 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.

(7) Evidence was available that all staff are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

The policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The written policies, procedures and statement specified in Schedule 5 were in place in the service. The following were reviewed:

- Safeguarding Statement and policy
- Statement of Purpose and function.
- Staff induction and training policy
- Staff supervision policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Accident and Incident Policy
- Complaints policy
- Accidents and incidents policy
- Risk management policy

These were found to be compliant with the requirements set out in schedule 5. Through a review of documentation, interviews with staff and observation by inspectors, the practices in the services were in line with the policy statements as set out by the service.

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 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) Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children.

(2) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection. There were eleven adults providing direct care to fifty-two pre-school children who were cared for in five care rooms.

(8)(a) There were at least 2 adults on the premises during the inspection and the staff roster indicated that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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:

(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)
- (i) The staff roster was available and included the names of the staff present on the day of inspection and their hours of work.
- (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child. The details of medication given to children were recorded with all details completed and signed by two staff members and parent.
- (k) Records of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service were maintained by the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

Each staff member was respectful to the children in their care. They addressed them by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. The staff provided the children with comfort when they became upset -one child who became upset and needed time alone was accompanied by a staff member and given time and space away from the bigger group to relax and rest for a while, before joining the group again when ready. In the Nursery, the staff responded appropriately to the baby's cues and each child appeared happy and contented in their environment. Each baby was soothed to sleep if unable to self-soothe and given a soother at this time if used by the baby.

Children were engaged in activities during the morning and played alone, in pairs and in small groups, while being supervised and guided as needed by the staff present. All rooms were stocked with appropriate toys and equipment for the age group of the children and were easily accessible.

Transitions were handled well by staff who supported children as they adapted to a new activity.

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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- Daily written risk assessments were carried out in each room and in the outdoor areas.
- All toys and equipment were in good condition.

Infection Control:

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before lunch and after using the toilet. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed and in accordance with the services infection control policies and procedures. Pedal bins were in use in the care rooms and in the sanitary areas in the service.
- Children's soothers were cleaned effectively and stored appropriately.
- Children's nappies were changed in a manner that reduces the risk of infection spreading.
- Cleaning schedules were maintained in each care room and the environment including toys and equipment were clean.
- In the Nursery mouthing toys were removed for cleaning and disinfection daily.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consent was available should temperature reducing medication be required to be administered to a child.
- Temperature reducing medication was available, in date and stored safely and staff were aware of how to safely administer medication.

Safe Sleep:

- In the designated sleep room, a total of 6 standard cots were available to children under two years of age to sleep. Individual bed linen was available.
- On the day of inspection, a sleep log was maintained every 10 minutes by staff detailing the physical checks carried out on sleeping children under 2 years of age.

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

At all times during the period of inspection the pre-school children were supervised.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-*
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service, and*
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.*
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall-*
- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and*
 - (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The complaints policy of the service includes the information pertaining to (a), (b) and (c) above.
- (2) Evidence was available to confirm that the Registered Provider:
 - (a) Kept a record in writing of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service.
 - (b) The complaint was managed in accordance with the complaints policy of the service.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a):
 - (a) included details of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with.
 - (b) The record of the complaint was open to inspection on the premises by the Inspectors.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The Registered Provider ensured that a person trained in first aid was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. Four staff members had certificates in First Aid Response, and a further three staff members had certificates in Paediatric First Aid.

Part IX - Inspection and Enforcement

Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.

Compliance Information

All information required by the Inspectors was available.