

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW119
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Little Green Giants
-------------------------	---------------------

Address of Service:	2 Lott Lane, Ballydonera, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	A63 HN66
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Gemma Greene
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	04/04/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM	34
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke and M. Redmond
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

Little Green Giants is a privately operated service located in a detached domestic dwelling which has been adapted for use as a creche. The service is located in the village of Kilcoole, County Wicklow. The service provides care and education to children aged 0 to 6 years of age, on a full day care, part-time and sessional basis. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07.30 hrs and 18.15 hrs (including a sessional Early Childhood and Education Scheme (ECCE) service from 09.00 hrs to 12.00 hrs for 38 weeks of the year). A school aged service is also provided for children for the duration of after school hours and during school holidays. There are five care rooms, a sleep room, a cot room, a kitchen and a staff room in the building. The service office is located to the front of the premises. Children have access to an outdoor area which is located at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are twelve adults employed in the service. Eleven staff members were present on the day of inspection. Eight members of staff were working directly with the children, this included the registered provider. The remaining staff members were the full-time chef, an office administrator and an adult who supports the staff but does not work directly with the children.

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.

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, 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.*

(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

A total of twelve staff are employed in the pre-school service, these files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

The registered provider works in the service and has a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

There was a clear management structure within the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Written validated references were available in respect of twelve adults.

(c)

The required three-year Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for twelve adults employed.

(d)

International police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

Nine staff members held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed 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.

(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)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the creche.

(2)
There were eight adults employed and present with 35 pre-school children on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)
There were more than two adults present on the premises throughout the inspection and the staff roster confirmed there were at least two adults present 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:

(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.

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

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

There was a record in writing for the above list of documents in relation to the service, available on the day of inspection.

(3)

The list of documents listed in paragraph (1)(h-k) were available on the premises and open to inspection by an authorised person.

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-

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The sleep needs of the children in the age group 1 to 2 years of age were child led but there was also a designated time for sleep after lunch. There were two sleep rooms in the service, the first room had an adequate number of cots to accommodate the age profile of the children who required cots for safe sleep. The second room contained low level beds to accommodate the children who no longer slept in cots. All children were offered the

opportunity to sleep during the day but were accommodated in their care room if they did not want to sleep. All shoes and heavy clothing were removed before children were put into their cots. Each care room had a cosy area for children to use who did not sleep during their day. Sleeping children's breathing, colour and position, were recorded and charted at 10-minute intervals. The staff members, when asked, knew the correct room temperatures for children 1 years and under, when sleeping.

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 door to the premises was securely locked on arrival of the inspector to the service.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children.
- Documentary evidence was available of daily risk assessments being carried out in the service.
- All toys were in good condition and equipment was suitable, age appropriate and in good working order.
- All cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The emergency exit route in each pre-school room was free from obstruction.
- A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous place in each pre-school room and around the pre-school.
- The side gate that leads to the outdoor area behind the service was securely locked with a coded padlock to prevent the unauthorised persons gaining access to the service and children leaving the service unsupervised.

Infection Control:

- Each pre-school room had access to a separate sanitary area within the pre-school. There were adequate nappy changing facilities for the number of children attending the service in nappies.
- There was warm running water at 38.6°C, liquid soap and paper towels available in all sanitary and nappy changing areas.
- A foot pedal bin was available in all sanitary areas for the safe disposal of used paper towels. Foot pedal bins were also available in all pre-school rooms and the nappy changing areas.

- Table cleaning was observed before and after snack time as was hand washing by adults and children before snacks and after using the toilet.
- A cleaning schedule was present and maintained in all pre-school rooms.
- Drinking beakers were adequately stored on a tray in the Twinkler room and Toddler room for infection control purposes.

Administration of Medication:

Medication for one child attending the service was clearly labelled, with the child's name, the type of medicine and the dosage clearly visible on the label and stored out of the reach of the children in the care room.

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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider ensured that all children attending the service were checked in and out on the service register.

(3)(a)(i-iv)

The registered provider ensured that no other person other than the agreed list of people had access to the service.

(b)

The registered provider had a record in writing, in the form of a visitors' book, of all such persons who accessed the service.

(4)

The registered provider was able to demonstrate that the visitors book was kept for a period of one year from the dates to which it related

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)

There was a staff member trained in FAR first aid present and available to the children throughout the inspection.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was located in an accessible place within each pre-school room.

(b)

The first aid box was available to the children attending the service at all times.