

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WW186

Name of Service: Cosy Kids Creche

Address of Service: Johnstown Lodge, Kilpeddar, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

Eircode: A63 VW89

Name of Registered Provider: Carolyn Marx

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 15/07/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM	29
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Johnstown Lodge, Kilpedder, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. A63VW89
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
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	Not applicable
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Description of service

This full day care service is located in a rural area in Kilpedder, County Wicklow. The service provides full day-care, part-time day care and a sessional service to pre-school children who are presently aged between one and five years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08.00am and 18.00pm. The premises is located in an adapted detached bungalow with two extra care rooms located in the garden area. A total of five rooms are available to accommodate the pre-school children attending.

Staffing

There were eight adults present on the day of inspection who were working directly with the pre-school children. The person in charge was available to assist in the rooms during the day as needed. One staff member was employed to carry out kitchen and cleaning duties. A total of eleven adults are employed to care for the pre-school 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 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the Inspectors and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

There were eleven staff members. These eleven files were reviewed on the day of the inspection.

(a)&(b) There were twenty-two written and validated references for twelve staff members.

(c) Documentary evidence of processed Garda Vetting Disclosures was available for eleven staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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

(4)

Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the ten staff members who worked directly with children had 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.

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 was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children. There were thirty-four children attending the service being supervised by eight adults on the day of inspection.
- (2) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection.
- (8)(a) There were more than two adults in the premises throughout the inspection and the staff roster confirmed that there are at least two adults present at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) Thirteen files were examined. In relation to the files examined, the record required in writing in relation to (a)-(i) above was kept for each child. The children's files were located in a secure place in the service.

(3)(c) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) (a)-(i) was open to inspection on the premises by the inspectors.

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 entrance door and the side entrance gate to the service were secure. A visitor's book was available in the hallway on arrival. With the exception of points 1-3 below, the service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoors.

Infection Control:

The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. Written cleaning schedules were on display for the room environment and sanitary areas which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Children's soothers were sterilised daily and stored in labelled individual containers. Individual linen was provided for children's cots and sleep mats. Staff confirmed that linen is laundered weekly or as required

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored.

Safe Sleep:

A sleep room with six standard cots was available and used for the younger children attending the baby and Twinkler room. Four children slept on low beds in the Little Stars room 12.30pm while supervised by a staff

member. The inspector observed staff checking all sleeping children at 10-minute intervals and maintaining a record of the checks. Room temperatures were maintained between 16 and 20°C when children were sleeping.

Fire Safety:

All fire exits were unobstructed.

Outing:

The person in charge confirmed that no outings are undertaken from the service at this time.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The edges of the soft mat in the Baby room were torn exposing foam. This posed a risk of choking.
2. The wooden handrail in place at the entrance to the Pre-school room was loose on its mounting posing a risk of a fall on the steps.
3. The wooden fencing adjacent to the pre-school room was in poor condition with a slat missing exposing sharp wood edges posing a risk of injury

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1.

Corrective Action:

Mat was removed immediately, and a new mat was purchased.

Preventive Action:

The mat will be checked on a daily basis to ensure that there are no rips or tears

2.

Corrective Action:

The handrail was replaced.

Preventive Action:

Weekly check will be carried out to ensure that the handrail is safe and secure

3.

Corrective Action:

A new fence panel was purchased and it was replaced immediately

Preventive Action:

Weekly check to ensure that it is secure and that there are no unsafe panels or sharp edges

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Receipt for the purchase of a new mat.
- 2 and 3. Photographic evidence of the new handrail and fence panel.

Summary Comment

The non-compliances identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23 have 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) On the day of inspection two adults trained in First Aid Response were present and immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)

(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (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 record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded on the 25/07/2024.
 - (b) Written records were available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms February 2023 and June 2024 respectively.
- (4) Notices were displayed detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.

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

All children were supervised at all times during the inspection.

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 valid until 27th of March 2025. The insurance provides cover for up to 45 children attending for full day care