

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WW201

Name of Service: Little Poppets Creche & Montessori

Address of Service: Cooldross Lane, Woodstock, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

Eircode: A63 HR74

Name of Registered Provider: Sacha Behan

Service type: Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

Date(s) of Inspection: 12/02/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM	17

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

This full day care service is located in a residential area in Kilcoole village. The service provides full day-care, part-time day care and a sessional service to pre-school children who are presently aged between one year and five years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07.30am and 18.30pm. A school age service is also provided for the duration of after school hours and during school holidays. The premises is located in a detached two storey purpose-built centre with three care rooms namely, The Bobblers room downstairs and the Playschool room and Montessori room upstairs. The Montessori room is used to care for the school aged children in the afternoon and during school holidays.

Staffing

Twelve adults are employed to care for the pre-school children. On the day of inspection eight adults provided direct care to the pre-school children. The Registered Provider was also 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 announced 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 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*

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that four new members of staff were employed in the service since the last inspection on 16/01/2023. A student was also present. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults as follows:

(a)(b) Ten validated references were available.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all twelve staff members and the student. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six months as adults.

(4)
Documentary evidence was available to confirm that three staff new members 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(4)
There was no evidence available to confirm that one staff member 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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Evidence to confirm that the staff member has the minimum qualification of Level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education is attached.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of evidence to confirm that the staff member has a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Summary Comment

The Registered Provider has addressed the non-compliance as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 9.

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.

provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

(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) At all times during the inspection an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were twenty-seven children attending the service being supervised by eight adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) The staff roster demonstrated two adults are on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

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)(a)-(i)

Ten 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 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.

Compliance Information

(h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis was recorded.

(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) Written details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service were available. This was signed by the staff member, manager and the parent of the child.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The inspector observed that staff were attentive to the personal care of the children. The children's nappies were changed routinely and if needed in between. Bibs were provided when eating to protect their clothes from becoming soiled or wet. Their noses, hands and faces were cleaned when they became soiled. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children.

Staff sat with the children when eating. They provided them with help when needed whilst supporting their independence. Drinks of water were offered regularly and were always available. Children attending the Bobblers room had individual routines for food and sleep which mirrored their home routines. All babies were provided with comfort when being placed to sleep and those who had soothers were offered these. The room was laid out with space for children to crawl and explore their environment; there were age-appropriate cause and effect toys and equipment. Individual daily written diaries were kept throughout the day to share with parents/guardians to provide for continuation of care.

The Playroom and Montessori room in the service were laid out with child-sized tables and chairs.

Developmentally appropriate equipment and materials were accessible to the children from open low-level shelving in these rooms.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. 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, holding them and talking to them in soft tones. A staff member stated that a newsletter was issued to parents monthly informing them of their weekly activities.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was available to the rear and side of the premises and was divided into three distinct areas. The area assigned to the Bobblers room had a shock absorbing surface while the two other areas

had grass surfaces. The outdoor area was equipped with a variety of play equipment including slides, swings, playhouse, climbing frames, sand play and a planting area. All children had an opportunity for outdoor play.

Non-Compliance Information

The rest areas in all rooms required further development. The thin matting did not provide adequate comfort for the children due to its small size and lack of cushioning.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive:

Adequate seating will be chosen from the catalogue when preferred items are back in stock. The children will be encouraged to avail of the soft seating area as deemed necessary.

Summary Comment

It is acknowledged that the Registered Provider has a plan in place to address this non-compliance, however, this non-compliance remains outstanding. It will be reviewed on next 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 main entrance door and the side entrance gate to the service was secure. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's 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 area which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

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. Records were reviewed of medication previously given and the information was required was recorded and the form signed by two staff and the parent. Medicine was safely stored.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The mattress in cot number 4 in the sleep room for the babies was too small causing a gap of 10cms at one end of the cot. This posed a safety issue as a child's leg/arm could get caught by falling through the wooden laths which were exposed.

Infection Control:

2. The pedal bin in the Playschool sanitary area for the disposal of nappies was broken posing a risk of cross infection.
3. The plastic covered cushion in use in the Montessori room was torn and therefore could not be effectively cleaned.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

General Safety:

Corrective & Preventive Action

1. A cot mattress for cot number 4 has been replaced with a new fitted mattress. This will be maintained by all staff members from the Bobbler room .

Supporting documentation submitted:

Photo of new cot mattress in place in cot number 4.

Receipt for the purchase of a new cot mattress.

Infection Control:

Corrective & Preventive Action

2 A new pedal bin has been put in place and the old bin has been discarded.

3. A plastic cushion in the Montessori room has been removed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Receipt for the purchase of the pedal bin and photographic evidence of the bin in place in the sanitary area.

Summary Comment

The Registered Provider has addressed the non-compliances which were identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23.

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) An adult trained in First Aid Response was present and immediately available to the pre-school children.

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 8th of January 2024

(b) Records were available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms dated April 2023 and October 2023 respectively.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.