

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW207			
Name of Service:	Treetops Daycare & Afterschool Club			
Address of Service:	Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow			
Eircode:	A63 P300			
Name of Registered Providers:	Áine Conway, Gary Conway			
Service type:	Full Day			
Date of Inspection:	04/07/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	22
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
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Description of service

This service is adjacent to the registered providers home situated in a residential area in Kilcoole village, County Wicklow. The service is registered to provide a full day care, part time and sessional service for pre-school children aged 0-6 years. Childcare services are also provided for school-aged children up to the age of 12 years. The service operates between the hours of 07:30 and 18:30 on a Monday to Friday basis.

The service consists of four pre-school rooms, the wobbler, toddler rooms and full time Montessori rooms are on the ground floor and the Montessori sessional room is on the first floor. Sanitary areas are available on both floors. A kitchen, office and storage area are located on the ground floor. The outdoor area is at the side and rear of the premises.

Staffing

On the day of inspection three pre-school rooms were in operation. Eleven staff were employed to care for the pre-school children. This includes the person-in-charge and her deputy person-in-charge who provide support in the pre-school rooms as needed. In addition, a chef is employed.

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 inspections 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 providers, 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)

There was no new adult employed since the previous inspection.

(a)&(b) There were two validated references available for each adult employed.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for all twelve adults employed.

(d) Not applicable as there was no evidence that this person had lived in another state for a period longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

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) 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-four children attending the service being supervised by nine 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 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)

All meals and snacks were provided by the service for the children. The weekly menu was displayed in the service. Food was provided at regular intervals. At lunchtime children were served a hot meal of pork ragu with pasta. Drinking water was provided with meals and freely available in all care rooms and outdoors throughout the day.

Staff attended to children's care needs. In the wobbler room, bibs were used to protect children's clothing and suitable high-chairs were used for the younger babies during mealtimes. Staff assisted children to eat if needed and were observed to help younger children to clean their noses. Children's nappies were changed as required and during this time staff were observed to engage warmly with children in their care. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently while being supervised by staff.

The staff in the Wobbler room described how they use a daily diary for each individual child to communicate information to parents about their child's day. Information was also shared with parents at drop off and collection times.

All care rooms were arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included home corners, construction toys, dress up, musical instruments, art materials, chalkboards and a library area beside the rest areas. A selection of materials was observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving provided. The inspectors observed children moving freely, exploring their environment, playing, and engaging with each other and the adults.

All children spent time outdoors. Sun hats were provided, and sun-cream applied to each child prior to going outdoors. The children from the Wobbler and Toddler rooms had a separate area to the older children. A range of equipment suitable to all age groups was available and included slides, play kitchen, ride-on toys, sand play, water

play, chalk board. The morning snack for the children from the full-time Montessori room was served outdoors at picnic tables. Staff sat with the children engaging them in conversation and assisting them as required.

Children attending the Wobbler room were facilitated to sleep according to their individual routines or when showing signs of tiredness. Children attending the Toddler room were facilitated to sleep in the afternoon after their meal. The children's outer clothing and shoes were removed, and they were provided with appropriate bedding. Staff provided the children with comfort and reassurance as they were settling to sleep, offering soothers if used, talking to them gently and sitting next to them. Areas were available within the children's rooms where they could rest comfortably outside of this time.

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 kitchen and storage areas were inaccessible to children.
- All toys and play equipment were safe for the age group using them and in good condition.
- There was evidence that risk assessments were carried out daily in all rooms.
- All fire exits were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- The premises and equipment appeared clean and well maintained. Cleaning schedules were completed and recorded the laundering of fabric items including bed linen.
- Children's hands were washed before eating, after using the toilet and after outdoor play to prevent the spread of infection.
- Sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels for handwashing.
- Children's soothers and milk bottles were cleaned, stored and sterilized appropriately.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were placed to sleep in appropriate facilities including standard cots and low-level beds according to their age and stage of development.
- An adult always remained in the room when children were sleeping on low-level beds.
- Inspectors observed staff checking sleeping children at 10-minute intervals and maintaining a record of the checks.
- Appropriate bedding was used to prevent overheating.
- Room temperatures were maintained between 16 and 20°C when children were sleeping.

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.
- Medication was stored safely and clearly labelled.

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)
A person trained in first aid response was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. A total of three staff members present on the day of inspection had this qualification.

(2)(a) and (b)

A first aid box which was safely stored in a conspicuous position and available at all times.

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 written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place 30/06/2023.

(b)

A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was last serviced in January 2023 and June 2023 respectively.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the entrance hallway and in the care rooms of the service.

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 inspection the pre-school children were supervised.