

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX039
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Name of Service:	Daddy Daycare
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Address of Service:	Melwood House, Hollyfort, Gorey, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y25 RK06
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Name of Registered Provider:	Peter Smith
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection Day 1:	11/03/2024
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Day 2:	13/03/2024
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No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	40	PM	11
Day 2:		37		NA

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan E. Cullen
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

Daddy Daycare is a privately operated pre-school. It is offering a play based sessional and part time service for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The service operates Monday to Friday and can accommodate 44 children. The service is located in a rural community. It consists of four interconnected playrooms and sanitary accommodation. An outdoor garden and play area are available to the front and rear of the property which is safe and secure.

Staffing

The service employs eight staff to work with the preschool children attending the service. The registered provider is the designated person in charge and works daily in the service. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,
Regulation 16 (1) (h, l, K) Record in relation to pre-school service,
Regulation 19 (a) Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child,
Regulation 22 Food and drink,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid,
Regulation 26 Fire Safety and
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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.

Additional information

This inspection was triggered by receipt of information to the early years inspectorate. The registered provider was issued with an immediate action notice on the 12 March 2024 requiring them to address the non-compliance pertaining to regulation 28: Inadequate insurance of the service as a matter of urgency. A response received from the registered provider on the 12 March addressed the non-compliance. A referral was made to Better Start National Early Years Quality Development service with the consent of the registered provider on 19 March 2024. Better Start Quality Development Service provides mentoring and coaching to early learning and care settings based on the Siolta and Aistear frameworks and Tusla's Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF).

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present for 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.*

(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.*
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

On inspection there was a designated person in charge of the service. The registered provider advised the inspectors of the deputy person in charge in his absence.

The staff files for all eight staff working directly with children were reviewed on inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff members file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were not required as none of the staff had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.

(4)

Certificates of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the preschool children were available on file.

(9)(7)

All staff are provided with a copy of the services policies. The registered provider is currently in the process of updating the policies. A number of staff currently have completed training on Children First, with the registered provider enrolling staff for further training through the local childcare committee.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(2)

Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with children ensuring that the correct adult to child ratios were maintained at all times.

Day one: During the morning there were 40 children being directly cared for by 6 staff. After the sessional session finished, there were 11 children with 2 staff present till 2pm.

Day two: During the morning there were 37 children being directly cared for by 6 staff.

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.

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(h)

The attendance records were not accurately maintained in the service. The following information was not fully completed: the dates of the week could not be established and a number of days of attendance had not been fully recorded. On the days of inspection, it is acknowledged that the attendance records were recorded.

(i)

The staff roster was not completed, and it was unclear what hours the staff were rostered to work.

(k)

Accident and Incident records were not sufficiently recorded. Records from 2023 were not available for review on day one of inspection. Records of incidents were not recorded on the service accident and incident record sheet but were written in the room diary. These records however were not sufficient or in line with the service's accident and incident policy.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider submitted the following response:

(H)

This has been rectified with all staff aware of each room's roll books and the importance of filling in daily and placed out of the way of children.

(I)

The staff roster is now in place and staff sign off every week on Fridays, set hours are weekly with very little change.

(K)

We purchased Accident and Incident record books; this is available at all times in DDC.

The registered provider will ensure all are checked by the provider or by the deputy person in charge.

Supporting documentation submitted

New weekly staff roster developed and copy of receipt for new accident and incident books. Photograph of filled out attendance records.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response that was satisfactory to meet the requirements of the regulation.

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

(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

(1)(a)(b)

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection:

The service consisted of four interconnected playrooms which were bright and warm. On arrival to the service, the children were freely moving between the rooms. Evidence of curriculum planning was visible in the rooms which included long term planning for seasonal themes. For example, the children were enjoying making St. Patrick's Day arts and crafts, gluing, cutting and using sensory trays. Special occasions were celebrated, and parents were allowed to send in a birthday cake if they wished. The staff interactions were positive throughout the two inspection days. Staff were interested and attentive when talking with the children. A child who was upset sat with a staff member for cuddles for a while. Children enjoyed asking the staff to make up stories at story time. Children requested what songs and rhymes they wanted to listen to during the day, with children enjoying dancing to their songs.

Staff picked up on cues from children who needed help with toileting and nappy changing was attended to regularly. Behaviour management was incorporated into the daily routine with the use of simple class rules, designed and written by the children and staff. For example, in the Nemo's room, the children had a class contract on the wall, that they discussed during their circle time. These simple rules included "make good choices, gentle hands and no touching anybody's body." The staff asked the children "what does that mean?" to allow the children to show their understanding of their class rules.

Children had access to two outdoor gardens and play areas. The area to the front consisted of an enclosed space with a large driveway for ride on toys and a bark mulch area with climbing frames. The garden area to back had lawn/grass. It was spacious with large climbing tunnels, a digging area and seating. The staff told the inspector that they facilitated daily outdoor play and children wore wellies and overalls on wet days.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic needs:

The area designated for children to sleep/rest while attending the service was not suitable or conducive to sleep. It was located between two rooms, with a lot of movement of staff and children around the area. The area was readily available or set up to invite if a child wished to rest or relax during the morning. There was a lack of cosy/rest areas in the individual rooms for children to take time away from the busy environment.

Physical environment:

There was a lack of an enriched learning environment within the individual rooms. Interest areas were not fully resourced or developed to meet the play and learning needs of all children. It was observed during free play that some children were wandering and not fully engaged in play due to the lack of invitations to play to stimulate child led play experiences.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Basic needs:

Daddy daycare is in process of purchasing a 2-seater sofa which will be available for the children to relax and chill when needed, we also have moved the small library for the children to take books onto the sofa. We also have the sleeping equipment, mattress, quilts, pillows and blankets, when needed for children to sleep and rest when needed. We are also looking at doing this in two rooms.

Physical environment:

All rooms are being revisited by staff, with the goal to enrich each room with interesting areas like painting, sand, water, sensory, soft toys for smaller children, beads, food tasting, playdough in each room. Musical instruments, kinetic sand, books, jigsaws, number puzzles and a new sensory bin for them to explore.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of rest areas in the rooms and sensory and messy play toys and materials.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response that was satisfactory to meet the requirements of the regulation.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The parents provided the mid-morning snack for their children. Children’s lunches were stored in the fridge.

Non-Compliance Information

The part time food requirements were not fully met and not in line with the nutrition standards for early learning and care services. Children attending on a part time basis were not provided with sufficient snacks or food for the second meal. Children were given rice cakes and bread sticks with juice as a second snack/meal. The snack time was not set, and it was observed that a number of children who were present for part time hours did not get a second snack or meal before going home.

The only drink observed provided in the rooms was diluted fruit juice on both days. It is acknowledged that there was a water fountain available in the Nemo’s room, but this was only seen used by the children attending that room. The service’s policy does not reflect the practice observed on the day. The policy stated that the service provides a snack including milk or juice as a drink, with no reference to the requirements of children attending part time.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The healthy eating policy has been updated. Parents are asked to supply sufficient food and snacks for their children. The service will ensure that they supply water.

Text message sent out to parents to request that they supply extra snacks for any children staying late till 2pm.

Reminders will be sent every 2-3 months.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the policy and message sent to parents.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response that was satisfactory to meet the requirements of the regulation.

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 entrance to the premises was secured. There was a designated staff and visitor car park to the rear of the premises. The outdoor play areas were fully enclosed. Staff carried out a risk assessment of the outdoor area and ensure that the two sets of gates are closed before children used the area. Children were well supervised by staff in the outdoor area.

Infection Control:

The playrooms were clean and well maintained. There was warm water, liquid hand soap and hand towels available in the toilets in the Tiger's room, Nemo's room and staff toilet.

Outings:

The service had a policy for outings. From discussion with staff, they advised that the service went on two outings last year, one at Halloween and one at Christmas. The service enlists the use of a local bus company, and parents accompany their children on the bus also. The registered provider submitted a copy of the bus company insurance certificate as a reassurance to the inspectorate that they followed their outings policy.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1.

There was no warm water or heating available in the toilet in the Disney club room.

2.

There were inconsistencies observed in handwashing. The inspectors observed that not all children washed their hands consistently before eating.

3.

Nappy changing practices on both days were not in line with good practice and posed as a risk of cross contamination. The following was observed:

Children were changed on mats on the floor of the staff toilet, despite a wall mounted unit being available.

Children did not have their hands washed after nappy changing.

Staff did not wear aprons or wash their hands between nappy changes.

The mat was not cleaned between nappy changes.

The bin used for nappies was unlidded.

A filing cabinet was stored in the staff toilet, with a bin on top.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action:

1. The hot water is now switched on in the mornings.
2. All children now wash their hands before lunches are given out.
3. The nappy changing policy is attached and has been updated. Nappy policy and procedure will be given to all staff for reading.
4. The bin is now checked every day by the registered provider
5. The filing cabinet is removed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of the bathroom showing the removed filing cabinet and the nappy changing policy.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response that was satisfactory to meet the requirements of the regulation.

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 were staff trained in FAR first aid for children available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

On day 2 the insurance certificate was displayed.

Non-Compliance Information

On day 1 of the inspection the service was not adequately insured. The insurance certificate identified that the service was insured as a sessional service. The service is registered and operating as a part time service. The registered provider was issued with an immediate action notice requiring them to address the non-compliance as a matter of urgency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Insurance cover was corrected on the day of inspection.

The registered provider will ensure that the insurance is checked when renewal comes out. Updated insurance certificate submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The registered provider took immediate steps to ensure that the service was adequately insured and submitted the new insurance certificate to the office of the early years inspectorate. The requirement of the regulation is met.