

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX039		
Name of Service:	Daddy Daycare		
Address of Service:	Melwood House, Hollyfort, Gorey, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y25 RK06		
Name of Registered Provider:	Peter Smith		
Service type:	Part Time		
Date of Inspection:	16/09/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM NA
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan L. McGarry		
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 seven staff, including the registered provider 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 15 Record of a Pre-School Child

Regulation 16 (1) (g, h, K) Record in relation to pre-school service,
Regulation 19 (a) Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid 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 following receipt of information.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.

(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, and
- (c) these Regulations.

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 seven staff working directly with children were reviewed on inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff member's 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 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were on file for staff who 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.

(7)

The service had a system of induction for new staff which included making all new staff aware of the policies, procedures and statements of the service. Staff stated that they were supported within the service. The service held staff meetings online at times convenient to staff. The registered provider was in the process of reviewing the procedures and policies and these were shared with staff and parents.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The following policies were reviewed as part of this inspection:

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Healthy eating Policy
- Accident and Incident Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Partnership with Parents Policy

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. During the morning there were 24 children being directly cared for by 6 staff.

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.*

Compliance Information

A sample of 10 children's enrolment forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

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:

(g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

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

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (g)
The service's policies were reviewed on inspection. The policies, procedures and statements were satisfactory in accordance with regulations.
- (h)
The daily attendance records for the children were accurately maintained in the service.
- (k)
Accident and Incident records were adequately recorded. The registered provider had purchased a new book, which was used by staff as needed. Records of incidents reviewed were signed and dated by staff and signed by parents.

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

(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

(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 service, with the use of a large white board where staff planned the short, long and seasonal themes and activities. During the morning children enjoyed playing homemade playdough, bricks and colouring. The staff interactions were positive throughout the inspection, with staff demonstrating awareness of the individual likes and dislikes of the children. Children enjoyed listening to stories and chatting during circle time and all children went outside after morning snack.

The service communicated with parents via a mobile phone application, and this was viewed on inspection. Parents were advised of day to day activities and updates such as the healthy eating policy. Staff spoke with parents at collection times and parents were welcomed into the service to collect their children.

Staff picked up on cues from children who needed help with toileting and nappy changing was attended to as required. Staff prompted and supervised handwashing.

Children had access to two outdoor garden 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, seesaws and muds kitchens. The garden area to the back had lawn/grass. It was spacious with large climbing tunnels, a digging area, planter boxes 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 not readily available or set up if a child wished to rest or sleep during the morning.

Physical environment:

There was a lack of an enriched learning environment within the individual rooms. Interest areas were not resourced or fully developed to meet the play and learning needs of all children. There was a lack of invitations to play to stimulate child led play and learning experiences. It is acknowledged the registered provider has engaged with Better Start (National Early Years Quality Development) programme.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Basic needs:

A new bed has been purchased for the children which is now available when needed, there are no children that nap now. The team also have a new sleep log in place.

Physical environment:

Better Start are commencing with the service starting the 30 September 2024, this will work to help to enrich the learning environment in Daddy Daycare.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of new sleep bed.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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. Visitors were required to sign the visitors book on arrival. There was a designated staff and visitor car park to the rear of the premises. Staff ensured that the two sets of gates in the outdoor area were closed before children used the area. The outdoor areas were safe, suitable and secured. The toys and equipment were in good condition. Children were well supervised by staff in the outdoor area.

Infection Control:

The playrooms were clean and well maintained. The toys and equipment were clean and in good repair. The inspectors noted that walls had been painted over the summer. There was warm water, liquid hand soap and hand towels available in the toilets for handwashing.

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 available to the children attending the preschool service.
- (2)(a)(b)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises 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

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.