

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX047
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Name of Service:	Faylinn Education Ltd.
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Address of Service:	Heathermist Farm, Ballinakill, Gorey, Wexford
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Healy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10 February 2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	53	PM	22
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital Ferrybank Wexford
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Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

Faylinn Education Ltd. is a privately operated full day-care are service. It offers play based care to children aged 1 to 6 years. The service operates from 7.30am to 6.15pm. The service is located in a purpose-built bungalow used solely for the early years service. The service consists of an entrance hall, five playrooms, sleep facilities, a kitchen, office, staff facilities, children’s and staff sanitary accommodation. Outside is a large, secured garden and play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There was a total of 10 staff including the registered provider working in the service. The registered provider is the designated person in charge and assists across the rooms with the children as needed. 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11,19, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 30.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 11,19, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 30. As a result, the scope of the inspection included time spent in four of the early years rooms.

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 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was a second named staff available to deputise as required.

The registered provider stated that there were five new members of staff employed in the service, since the last inspection on 13 November 2020. The files for the new staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two written and validated references available on file for each of the new staff members.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available on file in the service for all the new staff members.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file as required for the new staff members who had worked or lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

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

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-
(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

Compliance Information

(1)(2)

There was an adequate number of staff working with the children for the duration of the inspection.

(3)(4)

During the morning, there were 53 children being directly cared for by 9 staff.

During the afternoon, there were 22 children being cared for by 5 staff.

The registered provider was present and available to assist across the rooms as needed.

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) The following observations and discussions with staff reflect the children’s experience within the service focusing on the area of supporting relationships on the day of inspection:

Children in the baby room enjoyed time in the outdoor area, which was directly off their room. Children were appropriately dressed in warm snowsuits and hats. Children’s sleep needs were led by the child, with staff observed placing children to sleep when they showed signs of tiredness. In the afternoon, the staff planned a tabletop activity for the children. The interactions between the staff and children were kind, with the staff observed to comfort a new child settling in who needed reassurance on the day.

Children in the rose room were getting ready for their morning snack when the inspector arrived. The staff helped the children with washing their hands and getting their lunches ready. The mid-morning snack was supplied by parents. After snack time children enjoyed circle time, where they discussed what activities they had planned for the day. Expected positive behaviours were discussed for outside, with staff reminding the children to “use our listening ears”. The children were interested in pets, and this was displayed in their artwork.

Children in the daisy room were confident and engaging, asking the inspector why she was visiting and telling her what they loved about school. During circle time, they shared their plans for the mid-term break and talked about the Valentine’s art and crafts they were making. The children enjoyed time outside after their morning snacks. The staff spoke with the parents at drop off and collection times daily.

Children in the toddler room enjoyed playing with their tuff tray, that supported sensory and tactile play for them. Children had direct access to an outdoor play area from the room, which was used daily. The staff were observant and respectful with the children around hygiene needs. For example, the staff picked up on cues when the children needed toileting or nappies changed and asked the children to come with them to the toilet. “Will you come with me to have your nappy changed?”. The children enjoyed looking at and reading books when getting ready for dinner. The staff helped children to wash their hands and clean noses and faces.

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 supplied the snacks for their children attending for a sessional service. The service encouraged healthy eating and parents were provided with a copy of the healthy eating policy. Children on the day ate a variety of foods and snacks which included tuna pasta bake for dinner. Savoury muffins, rolls, yogurt, chopped fruit, crackers, ham, and cheese were available for afternoon tea. The meals were served in the rooms with children offered water and milk to drink, home-made dinners, fruit, and yogurts. Water was freely available for the children to access as they wished. The service had a supply of additional food and snacks if a child was hungry, forgot their food or did not eat the food from home. For example, a child who didn't want to eat the dinner was provided with a different snack.

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:

Access to the service was appropriately secured with a magnetic lock system at the front door that ensured restricted access to unauthorised persons. Cleaning products were stored away and inaccessible to children. The outdoor play area was fully enclosed and secured to the rear of the premises.

Infection Control:

The service was clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules maintained daily by staff. Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before snack and after toileting. There was warm running water, liquid soap, and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. Mouthing toys and soothers were washed and sterilised daily. Soothers were stored in individual labelled containers. Nappy changing procedures observed on the day were in line with the services nappy changing policy. The windows in the playrooms were open to provide natural ventilation.

Administration of Medication:

There was an administration of medication policy. The staff advised that medications supplied by parents were stored securely in a designated area and were inaccessible to children. Where regular medication was required by a child, the service put a care plan in place. There were currently no children requiring administration of medication.

Safe Sleep:

The service had a designated sleep room, located within the baby room. There were eight cots for use by the children who were less than two years of age. Individual bed linen was available, which was laundered weekly. Staff in the baby room who spoke with the inspector were aware of safe sleep practices for example, how often a sleeping child is checked, recording of the sleep checks and the optimum sleep room temperature. The sleep room temperature was recorded at 18.3°C. Sleep mats were available for children over the age of two years of age to sleep.

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 first aid available to the children attending the early years 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 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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,*
 - (b) an employee, and*
- (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)

Monthly fire drills were carried out within the service. Records reviewed on inspection confirmed that the last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 17 January 2023.

(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment was serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in June and October 2022.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service. The fire assembly point was clearly identified.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

(4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both,

the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

Compliance Information

(1)
All five early years classrooms were measured on the day of inspection and had sufficient space to accommodate the number of early years children currently registered to attend.

(2)(4)
The wobbler room was measured at 35.46 m² and had space for 12 children aged 1 to 2 years. The toddler room was measured at 35 m² and had space for 14 children aged 2 to 3 years attending the service for part-time or full day care. The rose room Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) was measured at 40.80 m² and had space for 22 children aged 3 to 5 years attending for a sessional service and 17 children attending for part-time or full day care.

The daisy room ECCE was measured at 47.16 m² and had space for 22 children aged 3 to 5 years attending for a sessional service and 20 children attending for part-time or full day care. The fifth playroom was measured at 23 m² and had space for 11 children aged 3 to 5 years attending for a sessional service.