

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX059		
Name of Service:	Kelly's Hotel Creche for Guests		
Address of Service:	Rosslare Strand, Wexford, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y35 Y83V		
Name of Registered Provider:	Eamonn Dempsey		
Service type:	Drop-In		
Date of Inspection:	26/07/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	2	PM 1
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital Ferrybank Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan		
Title:	Early Years Inspector		
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

Kelly's Hotel Creche provides a drop-in service and supervised activities for children who are residents of the hotel. The service operates from 09:00 to 18.00 hours and from 18:00 to 21:00 hours. The service consists of two main playrooms: The starfish room for the under four years and the pirate room for children over four years of age.

Staffing

There were six staff working on the day of inspection with the children. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. There is a designated person in charge who assists across the service at all times. The hotel employs adults as playroom assistants and childcare workers.

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 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4), 11 (1)(2) 13, (1)(2)(3) 21,24(1)(2)(3),25(1)(2)(a)(b), and 26(1)(a)(b) 4.

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

The registered provider was issued with an Immediate Action Notice by the inspection registration manager on 27 July 2023 in relation to absence of Garda vetting for two staff members. Garda vetting disclosures for two staff members were submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate on the 10 August 2023.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

There was a designated person in charge who remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was a second named staff available to deputise as required.

The files for nine staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two validated references available on file for staff members.

(c)

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

(d)

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

(4)

Certificates of qualification for five staff members working directly with the early years children were available on file.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

There were no Garda vetting disclosures available on file or two staff members. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 27 August 2023. The registered provider submitted evidence that Garda vetting disclosures were applied for on the 27 August 2023.

(4)

Verification of qualification and certificates were not available on file for four staff working directly with children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action:

(2) Garda vetting disclosures were applied for immediately.

(4) Qualifications were verified through the DECDIY. Staff working with young children who do not meet the requirements were enrolled on childcare training courses.

Preventative Action:

(2) The team have a new policy to ensure staff have Garda vetting in place.

(4) The team will ensure staff qualifications are verified. New checklist for HR team put in place. Staff meeting held with the playroom team.

Evidence submitted:

Garda vetting disclosures submitted to the early years inspectorate. Evidence of verification for the DECDIY for qualification. Receipt for payment for childcare course.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted were assessed as suitable to address the findings of non-compliance.

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.

(6) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 3 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number 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)
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

(6)
During the morning there were two early years children being directly cared for by one staff member in the starfish room.

During the afternoon there was one early years child being directly cared for by two staff in the starfish room ensuring there were adequate staff available to work with the children and to maintain staff/child ratios at all times.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 13 - Temporary pre-school services and pre-school services in drop-in centres

(1) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service or a preschool service in a drop-in centre shall ensure there are no more than 24 children attending the service at any given time.

(3) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that no child attends the service for longer than 2 hours consecutively.

Compliance Information

(1)
On the day of inspection there were no more than 24 children attending the service. The service offered organised activity sessions that were no longer than two hours and attendance records reviewed showed that this was adhered too.

(3)
No child was observed to attend the service for more than two hours on the day of inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The children had access to two main playrooms, the star fish club for children under four years of age and the pirate club for children aged four years and older. Both rooms were bright and warm with areas of interest suitable to the ages and stages of development of the children using them. The playroom for the under four years had soft areas for younger babies and children to crawl and enjoy floor play. Toys were on low level shelves and easily accessible to the children. The playroom was secured to prevent the children exiting unsupervised.

The pirate room for the over four years children had a pool table, arts and craft materials and an organised programme of activities. Children during the morning, enjoyed painting, using moulding clay and listening to stories.

Children had access to an outdoor play area directly off the kid's club. The outdoor play area consisted of a large sandy area with a large playhouse, slides and buckets and spades. A third room called the blue room was available to older children and included a table tennis table and computer games.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1)
The staff maintained a system for checking in and out children to the playroom. Parents were observed to book their children into the organised time slots during the day.

(2)
There were no more than 15 pre-school children in the playroom on the day of inspection.

(3)
The playroom/service was only accessible to guests staying in hotel. The staff maintained a record of children and parents who were attending the service.

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.
- (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 19 June 2023.

(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in February 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.