

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX079
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Name of Service:	Domhan Beag Limited
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Address of Service:	The Moorings, Rosbercon, New Ross, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y34 RW24
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Name of Registered Provider:	Emma O'Hanlon
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	21/02/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	36	PM	19
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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
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Description of service

Domhan Beag Limited is a privately owned preschool service. It offers a full day care service to children aged from 1 to 6 years of age. It also provides an Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) to children from 9.00am to 12.00pm daily for 38 weeks per year. The service operates from a unit in a commercial development that has been adapted to provide a preschool service. There is a toddler/wobbler room, ECCE 1 room and an ECCE 2 room, a sleep room, nappy changing room, children's toilets, a separate staff toilet, an entrance hall, storage, and an onsite kitchen. The children have direct access to an outdoor play area to the rear of the service. The service is also registered to provide a school age service.

Staffing

There were nine staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff working directly with the children held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework

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.

The inspection focused on the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 19 Health, welfare, and development of child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child

Regulation 25 First aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

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

(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)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were nine staff employed in the service. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were 15 written and validated references available on file from past employers. There were 3 written and validated references available from reputable sources.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all members of staff.

(d)

Police vetting was available for three staff members who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

All staff working directly with the preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service during the period of inspection. There was an early years care and education student on placement in the service who was available to assist the qualified staff as required.

Wobbler/toddler room

At 10.30am

There were 4 children between 1 and 2 years, and 4 children between 2 and 3 years in the care of 2 staff.

At 1.00pm

There was 1 child aged between 1 and 2 years and 4 children between 2 and 3 years in the care of 2 staff.

ECCE room 1

At 10.35am

There were 11 children aged between 3 and 6 years in the care of 2 staff.

ECCE room 2

At 10.40am there were 17 children aged between 3 and 6 years in the care of 2 staff.

At 2.30pm there were 13 children aged between 3 and 6 years in the care of 2 staff.

The minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 was maintained at all times during the inspection.

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 registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection. The staff in the wobbler/toddler room were observed playing with the children.

A staff member had a bag of toys which each child held and took a toy out of to play with. The toys were used as a sensory aid to encourage the children to interact with the staff and talk about these special toys.

Story time was observed with children sitting in the cosy area in the room. Of note in the ECCE room 2 was a display of the children's photos with a list of questions they had answered. Staff had taken the time to take a photo of each child on their first day in the service. Staff had listed the various answers to the children's questions. For example, "what do you want to be when you grow up?".

Staff were observed to be engaged with the children in their care. Staff in the ECCE 1 room were observed facilitating free play in the room. Children who required extra support were given additional reassurance in the room. For example, children who needed extra time to finish their snacks were encouraged to do so.

The materials and equipment available included a large range of developmentally appropriate equipment, arts and crafts materials, small cars, diggers, and dinosaurs. The play equipment in ECCE room 2 was well organised and easily accessible for the children. There was a shop with miniature items for sale, a construction area, a dress up area, a family wall with photos of the children and their families displayed. There was a range of equipment and materials available in the room which was varied and appropriate to the age and stages of the children attending the service.

The facilities in the service were further developed with the addition of an outdoor classroom which was roofed so that children could access even if it was raining. The outdoor play area was well resourced, there was a jungle gym, picnic benches, and a selection of ride on toys and balance bikes.

1(b)

The registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. During mealtimes younger children were encouraged to feed themselves and given help if they could not manage to feed themselves. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and given help as required. Staff sat with the children singing and talking to them during their mealtime.

Children who wore nappies had them changed regularly during the day and when required. Nappy changing was observed by the inspector. Staff were observed chatting to the children while changing their nappies. Children

were helped to wash their hands afterwards. The nappy changing policy was on display in the nappy changing area. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards. Children in the ECCE room 1 were observed lining up to wash their hands before dinner time. Staff chatted to them and praised them for their attention.

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 gained through the front door which was locked on arrival. The fire doors were not obstructed. The outdoor area to the rear of the service was safe, suitable and secure. The gate beside the outdoor play area which had access to the car park was secure at all times during the inspection.

Infection Control

There was, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. The service was clean. The service was clean on the day of the inspection. Cleaning schedules were maintained daily.

Safe Sleep:

The service had a safe sleep policy. Staff who spoke to the inspector were aware of the importance of following the procedures in place to ensure the safety of the sleeping children in their care. Staff were observed monitoring and recording the sleeping children's colour, breathing and position every 10 minutes. The temperature in the sleep room was recorded at 18°C on the day of inspection

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 was a person trained in a first aid responder course available to the children attending the service on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

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

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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in January 2024.

(b)

The annual record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was carried out in the service in May 2023. The annual maintenance of the smoke alarm in the premises was carried out in September 2023.

(4)

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