

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015WX110 | | | | |
| Name of Service: | St. Mogue's Community Childcare Centre | | | | |
| Address of Service: | C/O St. Mogue's Community Centre, Inch, Gorey, Wexford | | | | |
| Eircode: | Y25 K7R5 | | | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Rochelle O'Donnell | | | | |
| Service type: | Full Day, Part Time | | | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 23 February 2023 | | | | |
| No of pre-school children: | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>25</td> <td>PM</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </table> | AM | 25 | PM | 24 |
| AM | 25 | PM | 24 | | |
| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Early Years Inspectorate 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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not applicable |
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Description of service

St. Mogue's Community Childcare Centre is a community full day care service and is managed by a voluntary board of management. It operates from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and caters for children aged 6 months to 6 years of age. The service also provides a school age service. The service operates from a purpose-built premises within the grounds of the community centre in the rural village of Inch, north county Wexford. The service consists of four playrooms, a large communal area, sleep facilities, a kitchen, entrance lobby, office and sanitary accommodation. Outside children have access to a large, enclosed playground and garden.

Staffing

There was a total of 10 staff including the childcare manager and deputy manager working in the service. The registered provider does not work 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11,16, 19, 23, 25 and 30.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 11,16, 19, 23, 25 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, 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*
- (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 childcare manager was the designated person in charge when the inspector arrived at the premises. There was a second named staff available to deputise as required.

The childcare manager stated that there were five new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection on 15 November 2020. The files for the new staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two 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 of 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)

Certificate 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.

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 25 children being directly cared for by 8 staff.

During the afternoon, there were 24 children being cared for by 6 staff.

The childcare manager and deputy manager were present also and available to assist across the rooms as needed.

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:

(a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;

(b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;

(c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;

(d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;

(e) the facilities available;

(f) the opening hours and fees;

(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;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

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

Compliance Information

(1) (a-g)

All the information required under Regulation 16 (1) (a-g) were available for inspection. The notice board in the entrance hall displayed the relevant information pertinent to parents regarding the service.

(h)

The attendance records for the children were all maintained daily. For example, a sample of attendance records demonstrated that the children's attendance was maintained daily by the staff.

(i)

There was staff roster available, which demonstrated cover for breaks and lunches.

(j)

The administration of medication records showed that the documentation/records were complete.

(k)

A sample of the accident and incident records showed that the forms were signed by the parents and accurately filled in by staff.

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

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:

The Fern room:

The interactions between the staff and babies were kind and gentle, with the staff observed down on the floor engaged in floor play with the children. A child who rolled over from sitting was comforted when they got upset. The parents dropped and collected their children directly from the room, which allowed for daily feedback. The staff also gave parents a written record of their child's day, which included nappy changes, naps and food eaten. The children's sleep needs were led by the child, with staff observed placing children to sleep when they showed signs of tiredness.

The Primrose room:

The children enjoyed their morning snack in the room. The snack time was unhurried with children allowed to eat at their own pace. Children were helped tidy up as they finished and helped get dressed into wet gear, coats and hats for outdoor play. Children were supported with using the toilet as they needed, and staff worked in collaboration with parents to ensure consistency between the home and service routine. The interest areas in the room reflected the children's current interest in farm animals, with the toy farm set up, and open-ended natural products such as recycled materials and straw available for imaginative play.

The Bluebell room:

Children were fully engaged in play during the day, which included time outside, tabletop activities and free play. The children very interested in messy sensory play, with slime, playdough, sand and mixing paint colours very popular. The children were observed to use the toilet independently, with staff prompting them to ensure hands were washed.

A child who cut his finger during play was promptly attended to, with staff praising their bravery while attending to the cut.

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 eating, after outdoor play and after toileting. Staff were observed to wash babies hands after nappy changing. 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 discussed with the inspector the procedure to follow when a child required administration of medication. Medications were supplied by parents and stored securely in a designated area inaccessible to children. Where regular medication was required by a child, the service put a care plan in place.

Safe Sleep:

The service had a designated sleep room, located between the fern and primrose room. There were sufficient 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 fern 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 20°C. Low level beds were available for children over the age of two years 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 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

Compliance Information

(1)

All four early years classrooms were measured on the day of inspection and have sufficient space to accommodate the number of early years children currently registered to attend.

(2)(4)

The fern room was measured at 30 m² and had space for 8 children aged 0 to 1 years.

The primrose room was measured at 30 m² and had space for 10 children aged 1 to 2 years attending the service for part-time or full day care.

The lavender room was measured at 54 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 bluebell room was measured at 55 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.