

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX138
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Name of Service:	Wonderland Childcare Centre FDYS
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Address of Service:	Island Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y35 PR84
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kieran Donohoe
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	31/10/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	7
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
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Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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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

This preschool service was established by the Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS) in 1996. The service offers a full day care, part time, sessional and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programmes. The service is open from 8.30am to 5.00pm from Monday to Friday for children aged 1 to 6 years. The service is situated in the Enniscorthy Ferns Diocesan Youth Services building. The building is located on its own grounds in the centre of the town of Enniscorthy. The service has two preschool rooms, toilets, nappy changing facilities, two outdoor play areas, and access to an indoor gym area within the building.

Staffing

There are 14 staff employed in the service including 5 staff working in the service through a community employment scheme and a person employed as a cleaner. All staff working directly with the children held the minimum of level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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 10 Policies and procedures

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of preschool child,

Regulation 17 Information for parents,

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of child,

Regulation 22 Food and Drink,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child,

Regulation 25 First aid,

Regulation 26 Fire Safety,

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

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on 31 October 2024 in relation to non-compliance found in relation to regulation 25 first aid. It is acknowledged that the manager issued a response on the 4 November 2024 with plans and evidence on how the service proposed to address the immediate action issued on the day of inspection.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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)

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

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 14 staff employed in the service. All 14 staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection. There were 14 written and validated references available on file for staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all 14 staff members. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all 14 staff.

(d)

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

(4)

There were qualifications on file for all staff working directly with the preschool children. These staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

1.

There were four staff employed in the service who had 8 references available on file that were not validated. All staff working directly with children are required to have two written and validated references available on file in the service prior to commencing working directly with the children.

2.

There were three staff employed in the service who had one written reference available on file when two are required. The references on file for these staff members were not validated.

(7)

The inspector was not assured that staff were provided with appropriate information, training and supervision.

1.

New staff were not provided with an induction when commencing work in the service. A staff member advised that they were not given a copy of the services policies, procedures, and practices.

2.

Staff did not have regular one to one/supervisory meetings with the manager.

3.

Staff advised regular staff meetings were not held. Agendas were not set, and minutes shared with staff as is best practice in meetings in a preschool service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

1.2.

All written and validated references are now available on file in the service. The manager will ensure all required written and validated references are available on file in the service prior to staff commencing work in the service.

(7)

1.

New staff receive an induction from the manager of the service. They are introduced to the current staff and learn from them. The policies and procedures in place are available for staff in the service.

2.3

Staff have regular 1 to 1 supervision meetings with the manager. The manager has meetings in the rooms with the staff and any issues arising are dealt with then.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b)

1.2.

Copies of all required written and validated references were received by the inspector.

(7)

1.2.3

No evidence received.

Summary Comment

The response submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. The absence of required validated references has been found on previous inspections. This regulation will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on the administration of medication and the policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service.

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 at all times during the duration of the inspection.

Creche room

At 10.00am there were 3 children aged 2 to 3 years, and 2 children aged 1 to 2 years in the care of 2 staff.

At 3.00pm there were 2 children aged 1 to 2 years in the care of 2 staff.

Playschool room

At 10.00am there were 5 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.

At 3.20pm there were 5 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.

There were two students of childcare in the service on the day of inspection who were also available to assist the qualified staff in the care of the children when required.

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

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of 10 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 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

Staff who spoke to the inspector said that parents were welcome to visit the service, and any questions would be answered by the staff. The staff were observed interacting with parents at collection time. The inspector observed parents were welcomed into the service and given all details of their children’s experience in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

There was no information handbook for parents of children proposing to attend the service. The service did not provide parents with information as required under regulation. The registered provider is required to provide an outline of the curriculum, the hours of operation, the funding schemes available, contact details, the facilities available within the service, information on the day-to-day requirements and running of the service: healthy eating, medication management, behaviour management, complaints, fire safety and first aid.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The information booklet will be given to all parents and kept in the rooms for staff to reference.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence received.

Summary Comment

The response submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. This regulation will be reviewed on the next 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 following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service.

Children in the crèche room were getting ready to go and play in the outdoor area to the front of the service. Staff were observed to be attentive and kind to the children ensuring they were well wrapped up for the cold weather. Staff were observed to pick up on cues for care and acted promptly to attend to the children in their care. For example, one child who was extra sensitive and upset on the day of inspection was given extra attention to soothe and settle. Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable on the child's likes and dislikes and the extra measures the child needed to ensure they enjoyed their time in the service. Staff shared information on the children's day at collection time with their parents.

There was a calm atmosphere in the room as children were given choice in whichever activity they wanted to pursue. Children were observed enjoying free play in the room. They were playing with dolls, prams and buggies. The room was resourced with open shelves, homes corners, toys, books and a comfortable seating area. Artwork, birthday walls and family photos were on display.

Children in the playschool room were observed playing in the outdoor area directly in front of the service. Staff got chalk and drew on the concrete for the children. Staff were observed to be attentive and supported children to develop their imagination while enjoying the outdoor area. The same staff were rostered to both rooms which provided the children with a continuity of care in the service.

The preschool rooms were well equipped with toys and equipment for the children to play with. There were open shelves which were well resourced with boxes of labelled plastic bricks, jigsaws and books.

(1)(b)

Staff were attentive helping children who needed help with toileting. Nappy changing was attended to regularly. It was clear that all staff incorporated positive behaviour management into the daily routine with the use of simple class rules, for example, in the creche room staff were observed getting down to the children's level and speaking to them in low and gentle tones to soothe them when they were upset.

Non-Compliance Information

1.

The outdoor play area to the front of the service needed to be further developed for the play and stimulation of the children attending. For example, there were limited areas of interest, ride on toys or open-ended toys to develop the free play and imagination of the children.

2.

The inspector was concerned in relation to the use of screen time in the service during transitions. For example, after lunch the children were observed watching a cartoon and later again in the afternoon. The use of screen time in early years services is not encouraged as a behaviour management tool. Soothing and calming children is best achieved by a balance of listening to the child, helping them to communicate their needs and ensuring the service has provided the correct physical environment for the child.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The management of the service is in the process of reviewing the outdoor area to the front of the service.
2. Staff are now aware they are not to use screen time in managing behaviours in the service

Supporting documentation submitted

- 1.2. No evidence received.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted are satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. This regulation will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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

There was water available to drink for the children in the playschool room.

Non-Compliance Information

Parents provided all snacks and hot meals for the children attending the service. While the service has a healthy eating policy, some of the food observed on inspection did not meet the requirements for children attending a preschool service, for example:

1.
Many of the children were observed having snacks which were high in sugar, for example chocolate spread sandwiches for their morning snack.
2.
A child who was 18 months old was observed drinking juice from a bottle. This practice is contraindicated for tooth decay in young children.
3.
Children in the creche room were given juice to drink throughout the day of inspection from beakers provided by their parents.
4.
Some of the hot meals did not provide adequate nutritional balance and were highly processed, for example one child ate a meal of noodles and sausage. Another child had pasta and cheese which was reheated in the microwave as their main meal of the day. Children attending a full day care service are required to be provided with a hot meal. This meal should consist of foods from at least three food groups. For example, rice/potato /pasta, a vegetable or salad, and a protein meat, fish or beans. The main meals observed on the day of inspection did not meet this requirement.
5.
There was no evidence available to demonstrate that the service had communicated the nutritional requirements and healthy eating policy to parents.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1.

Foods high in sugar are now put back in the children's lunch boxes and not given to them to eat in the service.

2.

Parents have been informed that children will only be given milk or water to drink from bottles going forward.

3.

Juice will no longer be provided for children in the service.

4.5

Parents have been informed the standard of food provided on the day of inspection did not meet the standard required. Parents have been informed of the standard of food required and have been provided with information leaflets which outline the standard required. The service will keep a supply of food in the service to give to children if their snack or meal is not sufficient to meet their nutritional requirements.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence received.

Summary Comment

The response submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. This regulation will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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

Access to the service was gained through the front door. Visitors were observed through the glass front door and gained access when the door was opened by a buzzer system from each preschool room. The outdoor areas in the service were safe and secure.

Infection Control

The service had an infection control policy. Staff were seen to attend to children's personal hygiene during the day. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot pedal operated bins provided across the service.

Safe Sleep

The service had two designated sleep rooms. Individual bed linen was available, which was laundered as needed. Staff who spoke with the inspector, were aware of safe sleep practices for example, how often a sleeping child is physically checked, recording of the observations such as colour, position and breathing rate. The staff carried out and recorded physical sleep checks every 10 minutes as per the service policy on safe 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

(2)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box for children safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and available to the children at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There was no evidence that there was a staff member trained in a first aid responder course employed in the service on the day of inspection.

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the day of inspection. It is acknowledged that the inspector received a response on the 4 November 2024 outlining the steps the registered provider proposed to take to address the non-compliance found. The manager has submitted evidence that three staff employed in the service have been booked to do a first aid responder course during the months of December and November 2024

It is acknowledged that the registered provider submitted evidence of first aid training for two staff in response to the immediate action notice. However, the training undertaken does not meet the required standard of First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Three staff have attended training in a First Aid Responder course since the inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence received.

Summary Comment

The response submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. This regulation will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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 template in place to record any fire drills that take place in the service. The last fire drill took place in the service in October 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in October 2024.

(4)

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

There was insurance in place to cover the number of children who were present on the day of inspection.