

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX141		
Name of Service:	1.2.3. Academy Pre-School & Montessori		
Address of Service:	3 Clonattin Village, Gorey, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y25 X497		
Name of Registered Provider:	Luo Xi		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	19/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM NA
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).			
Conditions if applicable	Not applicable		

Description of service

123 Academy Preschool and Montessori is a privately owned service which opened in September 2016. It is located in a residential area of Gorey Co Wexford. It is offering a sessional service to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates from 9.00am to 12.00pm. The service is located in a two-storey residential house in an estate. The service consists of an entrance hall, two playrooms, two toilets and an office annex. Currently only one room is in use. Outside there was a large, enclosed play area to the rear of the house.

Staffing

The registered provider operates as a single-handed provider. There is a second adult familiar with the service who is available in the event of an emergency. The registered provider holds qualifications at degree level in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education 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 an examination of compliance under the following regulations. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),
Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4), and 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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 and on the premises at all times.

(2)(a)(b)

Validated references were kept on the individual's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.

(d)

Police vetting was available on file for staff that had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.

(4)

Certificate of qualifications for the registered provider who was 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1)
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service. There were eight children in the care of the registered provider.

(8)(c)
The registered provider operates as a single-handed provider. The registered provider identified a second adult who was familiar with the service and was available in the event of an emergency.

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 reflected the children's experience within the service focusing on the children's learning, development and well-being on the day of inspection:

The service was using one of their playrooms, which was bright and spacious. The room was set up and resourced with different interest areas, toys and materials. Children could move freely around the room during free play.

The registered provider and children were observed interacting individually and in small group activities throughout the morning. The children enjoyed free play, colouring, circle time, reading stories, table top activities and outdoor play. The staff interactions were kind and calm during the morning. Minor disputes were handled calmly and resolved quickly.

A child who was unsettled and upset was comforted by the registered provider. The registered provider offered children the choice of what activities they wished to play with during the morning. The registered provider praised children for the work and play during the morning. "Well done, good job". The registered provider prompted the children with toileting and provided assistance as needed, encouraging handwashing.

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:

The entrance to the service was secured when the inspector arrived at the premises. Cleaning products were stored away and inaccessible to children. The outdoor play area was fully enclosed to the rear of the premises.

Infection Control:

There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand hygiene available in the service. Handwashing was observed before eating and after toileting on the day. The service was clean and well maintained.

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)
The registered provider was trained in first aid for children.
- (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 fire fighting 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)

The registered provider was aware of the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills. The registered provider stated that a fire drill was due to be completed before the end of the month.

(1)(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 March 2023.

(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

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.