

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| 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: | 07/10/2024 | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 8 | PM NA |
| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate 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 Pre-School and Montessori is a privately owned service which opened in September 2016. It is located in a residential estate in Gorey Co Wexford. It offers a sessional service to children aged between 2 and 6 years and operates from 9am to 12pm. The premises consists of a two-storey residential house in an estate. The service consists of an entrance hall, two playrooms, three toilets and an office annex. Currently only the downstairs playroom 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 in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education on the national qualification 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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(8) (c) Staffing levels,

Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) Record of a Pre-school Child,

Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid,
Regulation 26 Fire Safety 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.

Additional Information

This inspection was triggered following receipt of information.

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 on the premises at all times.

(2)(a)(b)

Validated references were kept in the individual's file.

(c)
Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider and emergency person. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(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 works directly with the preschool 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 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

A sample of six children’s enrolment 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 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 reflected the children's experience within the service focusing on the children's learning, experience and well-being on the day of inspection:

The service consisted of one playroom, that was bright and spacious. The room was set up and resourced with different equipment, toys and materials. Children could move freely around the room during the morning. The registered provider and children were observed playing together during group activities throughout the morning. The children enjoyed free play, painting together, floor play with boxes of bricks and outdoor play. The interactions were kind and calm during the morning.

Transition between activities were smooth with the registered provider giving the children prompts and time to tidy up and finish their activities and play. The registered provider praised children for the work and play during the morning. "Well done". The registered provider prompted the children with toileting and provided assistance as needed, encouraging handwashing. Children could freely access the toilet when they wished during the morning.

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 and remained secured. 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. Regular handwashing took place 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 FAR first aid responder and is available 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 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 in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 9 September 2024.
- (1)(b) A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in March 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

The registered provider had a certificate of insurance for a sessional service for 11 children.