

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DS019
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Lily's Childcare
-------------------------	------------------

Address of Service:	The Heritage Centre, Main Street, Saggart, Saggart, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D24 DX43
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Eoin Doyle
-------------------------------------	------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	17/10/2024
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
---	---

Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
----------------------------------	---------

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

Lily's Childcare is service located in the Heritage Centre in Saggart, Co Dublin offering sessional care. A service is provided from a dedicated building adapted to provide for a pre-school service.

A service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service is open on Monday to Friday between 9.15am to 12.15pm and 1.00pm to 4.00pm for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

There were three adults working in the service directly with the children. The person in charge arrived to the service following the inspectors arrival and worked directly with the children. All staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels

Regulations 15 and 16– Records

Regulation 19 – Health, welfare and development of the child.

Regulations 23 and 26 – Safety

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations 15 records of a preschool child and 16 record in relation to a preschool service...As a result, the scope of the inspection included 5 children’s records and 5 accident and incident records.

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 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

(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

The inspection focussed on the recruitment records of all four adults who were employed in the service.

(9)

(2)(a)(b)

The registered provider ensured that all required references were considered and verified and available for inspection for all adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults. The Garda vetting disclosures complied with the Regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International Police vetting was not required as no adult had lived outside the State for a period longer than 6 months.

(3)

All records were sought and reviewed prior to the staff commencing work in the service.

(4) Records were available detailing that all staff members had achieved the required level of qualification at a minimum 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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children throughout the inspection.

(3) The adult to child ratios were maintained at all times during the inspection. Three adults facilitated the programme of care and education for sixteen pre-school children during the inspection.

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 five records were reviewed by the inspector.

The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a) to (i) of the above Regulation for all the records reviewed.

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:

- (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)
- (h) Attendance records were maintained and accurately reflected the children attending the service on the day of inspection.
 - (i) A roster was available detailing staff working hours.
 - (j) There was no records available of medication administered to children as the registered provider stated there had been no medication administered to children since the last inspection.
 - (k) A sample of five records were reviewed and detailed any accident and incidents that had taken place in the service with the required information completed on the forms.

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 person in charge and staff of the service had ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was being facilitated as observed by the following:

Parents provided all snacks and meals for their children. Food available was observed to be balanced and nutritious and included a variety of foods such as fruit, yoghurts, filled sandwiches and crackers. The service operated a practice which allowed children to access and eat their snack when they were hungry. Staff were observed sitting with the children and chatting during mealtimes, creating a sociable atmosphere. The personal care provided by the staff of the service met the needs of the children, who were encouraged to wash their hands prior to mealtimes and after using the toilet.

The care room was bright, spacious and contained a varied provision of play materials and equipment suitable for the age range and number of children attending the service. There were low level shelving units so that the children could easily access the materials and there were sufficient child sized tables and chairs for the number of children attending. The shelving contained a number of table top activities including a variety of puzzles, art and construction activities which promoted choice and independence. The care room had defined areas of interest including a home corner, small world play and a rest area with books.

There was an enclosed area to the front of the building with a concrete surface and contained a number of ride on toys and scooters.

The atmosphere in the care room was calm, friendly and supportive. The staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children by using soft vocal tones, listening attentively and offering praise and encouragement. Staff were observed to be responsive to the children providing assistance as required.

Minor disagreements were managed well and in a positive manner. Staff offered alternative activities to children and encouraged sharing. Individual plans were in place and implemented in line with the child's own needs. The service engaged with external agencies to ensure the child's learning and development was facilitated across all developmental areas.

Staff communicated with parents and guardians at drop off and collection.

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 secure ensuring no unauthorised access to or from the building. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children. Heavy furniture was secured and cables were out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Children washed hands before mealtimes and after using the toilet. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available to the children along with liquid soap. Hand dryers were available to hygienically dry hands. Pedal bins were available throughout the service.

Fire Safety:

All fire exits were kept clear and regular fire drills took place in the service.

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)

A person trained in First Aid Responder was available to children at all times.

(2)

(a)(b) A fully equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position and available to the children attending the service at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) A record in writing was available of fire drills that took place in the service. The last fire drill took place on the 30th September 2024

(b) A record was available on the day of inspection detailing that the fire fighting equipment was serviced during October 2024 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on the 1st April 2024.