

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016GY017				
Name of Service:	Mary's Day Care Service				
Address of Service:	Clonlahan, Kiltormer, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.				
Eircode:	H53 X6K6				
Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Mc Goldrick				
Service type:	Full Day				
Date of Inspection:	19/06/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>15</td> <td>PM</td> <td>19</td> </tr> </table>	AM	15	PM	19
AM	15	PM	19		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	TUSLA - Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway				
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Heagney				
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
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Description of service

This full day care service is in a rural area near of the village of Kiltormer, Co. Galway. The service operates a full day care service from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs. The service caters for children aged between 0 to 6 years. The service is registered for a maximum number of 21 pre-school children, at any one time.

There are two playrooms, the Giraffe, and the Minions room. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is a sleep room with three cots available for younger children requiring sleep provision. Additionally, there are stackable beds for older children's sleep provision. There are outdoor play areas on both sides of the premises. A child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests and an enquiry-based programme is provided.

Staffing

There is a person in charge and a named deputy person, in charge. There are seven staff including the registered provider, working in the service. The seven staff hold at least a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

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, 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.*

(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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available on the premises at all times when the pre-school children were present.
Files for the seven staff were reviewed.
- (2)(a)&(b) Fourteen of the fourteen written validated references, on file for the seven staff, were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of seven staff.
- (d) None of the staff had worked outside the jurisdiction, for six months or more, while over the age of 18 years of age and therefore did not require police vetting.
- (4) The seven staff who were working directly with children, held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of qualifications were on file for the seven staff.

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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.*

Compliance Information

- (1) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that the adult child ratios were adhered to.
- (2) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to. On the morning of the inspection, there were 15 pre-school children aged between 1 to 3 years.
- 5 children were aged 1 to 2 years,
 - 10 children were aged 2 to 3 years.
- There were 3 staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, from 10.15hrs, the registered provider acted as childcare relief and assisted in the administration part of the inspection.
- In the afternoon, there were 19 pre-school children aged between 1 to 5 years.
- 5 children were aged 1 to 2 years,
 - 10 children were aged 2 to 3 years,
 - 4 children were aged 3 to 5 years.
- There were 5 staff including the registered provider, caring for these children. It is acknowledged that at 12.10hrs, 4 of these children came from other pre-schools.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were two staff on the premises while the pre-school was operating.

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.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

(5) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

Compliance Information

(1) (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)&(i)

Fourteen children’s records were reviewed by the Early Years Inspector.

The sample fourteen records reviewed showed that the entries were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The fourteen children’s records contained the following:-

- The name and date of birth of the child.
- The date on which the child first attended the service.
- The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).
- The name and address of the child’s parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.
- Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.

- Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.
- The name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner.
- A record of any immunisations the child has had.
- Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was / is an emergency.

(4)&(5) The registered provider advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that all relevant children’s records were kept for 2 years from the date a child stops attending the service.

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.

Compliance Information

- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be as independent, as possible.
- The children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner. The staff complied with the service’s healthy eating policy.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children’s ages and stages of development.
- On the day of inspection, 9 children wore nappies and were changed on a regular basis. The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. The staff used the correct language surrounding toileting / nappy changing.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance. Play activities and experiences were developmentally appropriate and suitably challenging.

The children were observed at free play, talking about safari animals, drawing a poster together, playing Simon says, playing with transport vehicles, playing hide and seek. The children were observed connecting, stacking, and building.

The staff prompted children regarding what the animal says for example, the cow says, 'moo moo', the duck says, 'quack quack', and the children moved and participated in action songs. At circle time the staff read stories and older children gave their views. The staff used visual aids and probed with questions such as 'who is this?', 'how many are there?', and 'where is that?'. In the outdoor area, the children played at the mud kitchen, on the activity centre, in the house and were observed digging bark. The children were observed crawling, chasing, running, and playing catch. Staff played 'find me xx' with the children. The children chatted to the inspector about the neighbouring farm and what equipment the farmer uses and what foods that the animals like.

- The staff supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by -
having a key person system for each child,
showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust,
listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children's cues, gestures, and body language,
using soft tones, the child's individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact,
providing opportunities for individual and small group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging,
providing opportunities for children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute to projects and tasks,
working with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child's interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.
- Parents/guardians signed a parental agreement form and received a parent handbook with the service ethos, daily routines, strategies for supporting the children and the updated policies, procedures, response plans.
- On speaking with the staff, the inspector was informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child's experiences in the pre-school including the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. This information was provided at collection times and via text messages, by phone calls, by email and via a private messaging application 'app'.
- The staff created classroom learning journals / profile books showing the themes, experiences, and activities that the children engaged in, along with photographs. The themes to date included the weather, Autumn, feelings/ emotions, Halloween, 'head, shoulders, knees, and toes', the human body, the senses,

Winter, our community, fairy tales, the circus, handprints, baby animals, Valentine’s Day, and ‘bee mine’. There was evidence of curriculum planning, Spring, my family, St Patrick’s day, music / dance, Easter, dinosaurs, planting, bug hotel / insects, bugs in a jar, under the sea, colours/ shapes, food/ nutrition, transport, and construction.

- Children’s art and craft work was collated and given to parents and guardians on a regular basis.
- The staff were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them, and talking to the children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling, and commentating, extending a child’s activities and initiating games and activities. The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences. The inspector noted the staff acknowledged a child’s achievements ‘that is great’ ‘well done’ and used questions such as ‘what should we do next?’, ‘is there any other way to do this?’, to allow children to critically think and explore.
- The staff supported children to enter social groups, and to learn to help and positively engage with other children. They encouraged and praised children for specific, positive, and appropriate behaviours. Children were given positive alternatives, rather than just being told ‘no’. Children were supported in preventing, managing, and resolving conflict. Children could identify, name, and explore their feelings both positive and negative.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The privacy and dignity of a child having their nappy changed could not be maintained as there was only one door between the nappy changing area and the Giraffe playroom which remained open, resulting in the possibility of a child, being easily viewed by another child and or a staff member, while having their nappy changed. It was noted that the lobby door had been removed and the latch of the only door between the Giraffe playroom and nappy changing area was broken and therefore staff were unable to close this door.

It was observed throughout the inspection, the dignity of children using the toilet was not maintained as the designated children’s sanitary door remained open, (which was adjacent to the corridor interlinking the two playrooms) therefore children using the toilet could easily be viewed by another child and or a passer-by.

By having doors remaining open in the sanitary and nappy changing area, could pose a potential risk of cross infection.

2. The environment of the Giraffe playroom.

In the Giraffe playroom, there was no quiet rest area / space to allow a child to choose or have the opportunity for alone time or quiet play, designed with visibility in mind that allows constant supervision in an unobtrusive way. On the day of inspection, the early years inspector observed a cot and stacked children's chairs, stored against one wall in the Giraffe playroom. The early years inspector observed that at circle time, a staff member and 6 children sat directly on the floor.

On the day of inspection, the children in the Giraffe room did not have access to materials and equipment, available / arranged to be visible and readily accessible, to promote independent access by these children, aged 2 to 5 years of age. For example, on the day of inspection, the drawing table, and the construction table in the Giraffe room, had no materials / resources accessible to the children, as the relevant items were on high shelving or stored in the shelving unit on the corridor interlinking the two playrooms.

It was observed throughout the day, that the location of younger children in the Minion room, (on the day of inspection, all these younger children from the Minion room, required nappy changing) resulted in a staff member and the younger children, having to go through the Giraffe room, to access the nappy changing area, while the older children in the Giraffe room were engaging in activities / play, causing potential disruption.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 20th of June and the 19th and 24th of July 2023, the registered provider advised of the following -

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The handle and latch on the door entering the nappy changing room has been fixed ensuring the door always remains closed. A staff meeting was held to ensure all staff are up to date on the updated nappy changing routine including the closing of the door to ensure the child's dignity. Staff have participated in updated toileting policy which outline the importance of keeping the toilet door always closed to ensure a child's dignity, and prevent cross contamination, this process will be monitored daily by management to ensure compliance. The toileting procedure has been put on display within the sanitary area to ensure ongoing reminders prompts for staff. Children have been informed in a language that they understand about the importance of keeping the toilet door always closed.
2. The environment of the Giraffe room has been developed to include a cosy corner, made up of a wipeable couch, cushions, calming toys, and story books, that creates a rest area which allows children to have the opportunity for quiet play.

Disc floor mats have been purchased for staff and children to sit on during such activities like circle time to prevent them for sitting directly on the floor. Chairs have been put at the table within the room to ensure they are not stacked up against the wall during activities. Interest areas within the room have been updated to ensure the children can access materials freely; for example, construction corner updated, art and craft area updated. Interest areas within the room have been developed to ensure the children can access materials freely. For example, the construction corner and art and craft areas have been updated. Staff must carry out an assessment of the room each day to ensure that it is accessible, that supplies are in good condition and that each area is clearly defined with suitable age-appropriate materials and equipment that are accessible to the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. The services updated toileting and nappy changing policy was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.
2. Documentary evidence of an order form for a soft 3-seater and for 9 soft discs mats, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the redeveloped and resources construction, creative and soft seating areas were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 19 has been adequately addressed.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe, and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The design, organisation and resourcing of the environment supported each child’s wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service. The atmosphere in the learning environment was encouraging and unhurried. The play materials and environment supplied were changeable and flexible, to respond to the needs, preferences, and interests of the children.

The Playrooms

- The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, and designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

Minions room

- Materials and items of interest included a kitchen with utensils, food items and pots / pans. There were counters, insets, jigsaws, games, a ring holder with rings, cubes, wooden blocks, shapes, stacking and hammering items. There were screws, screw drivers, a wrench, saws, and a toolbox. There were transport vehicles, tracks, a tunnel, balls, activity centres, rattlers, puzzles, links and connectors.
- Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids, photographs, artwork, and themes including a wall mounted activity centre caterpillar, bunting, birthday trains, sunflowers, daffodils, and buds. There were also inspirational pictures such as ‘be happy’, ‘be brave’, ‘dream big’, ‘monkey around’ and ‘stand tall’.

Giraffe room

- Materials and items of interest included feathers, various sizes of spoons, paint brushes, glitter, paints, crayons, and coloured pasta. There was a construction table, a theatre/ a shop with food items/ pots / kitchen utensils and a drawing table. There were links, connectors, insets, bricks, pins, animals, dolls, wooden rainbows, tracks, and a theatre.
- Additionally, the children’s outdoor clothing and wellingtons was stored in 2 open containers.

- Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids, photographs, artwork, and themes including community, healthy eating, summer, and zoo animals. There were also displays of handprints, the curriculum, a clock, butterflies, and a birthday train.

(1)(b) There was a designated sleep room with 3 cots. Additionally, the service had an additional cot and 4 stackable beds for older children's sleep provision.

(3)(a)

Outdoor areas

- There was an outdoor area adjacent to main entrance door of each playroom.
- It is acknowledged that the outdoor area adjacent to the Giraffe room was not currently in used and the registered provider advised the inspector of forthcoming plans for development.
- The outdoor area adjacent to the Minions room, was covered with bark, and grass and there was stone paving. The area was surrounded by wooden fencing and gates.
- There was a raised wooden house with steps and a slide. There were footballs, shovels, cones, planters, flowerpots, rackets, and transport vehicles. There was a mud kitchen with bowls, pots, pans, and plates and a wooden house. There was a picnic table with seating. There was an activity centre with a tunnel, slides and vantage area. There was matting with imprinted roadways, tracks, and houses. There was a mounted insect butterfly hotel, a bird house, mirror, and a blackboard.

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 a healthy eating policy. The registered provider advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by visual aids, and adherence to best practice guidelines.
- Before 9.30hrs, the children had the opportunity for cereal or porridge, with milk to drink.
- At 11.10hrs, the children in the Minions room, had their snacks supplied by parents and guardians consisting of cracker, fruit pieces, cheese, pancakes. The service supplied buttered toast.

- At 11.30hrs, the children in the Giraffe room, had their snacks supplied by parents and guardians consisting of yogurts, cheese, sandwiches, crackers, fruit. The service supplied buttered toast.
- At 12.30hrs, the children had roast chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, parsnips, celery, and onions, supplied by the service, and cooked on site.
- At 15.30hrs, the children had their own snacks supplied by parents and guardians and an omelette supplied by the service and cooked on site.
- Cutlery and plates were offered for children's snack / mealtimes.
- Clean and safe drinking water on a tray, was at a low-level and accessible to children in each of the playrooms and in the outdoor area.
- There was a designated fridge, for the safe storage of perishable foodstuffs from children's lunch boxes, for their snack times.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Powdered infant formula for the children in the Minions room, was not prepared in accordance with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) best practice guidance, which advises that powdered infant formula should be made up at home. Staff advised that they made up bottles on site, as per parents preference.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 20th of June and on the 19th of July 2023, the registered provider advised of the following -

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Parents were informed via message by the manager that formula bottles have to be prepared in accordance with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) best practice guidance, which advises that powdered infant formula should be made up at home and no longer in the pre-school. Parents were also offered the link on how to make formula bottles safely and correctly. The health eating policy was updated to include that formula bottles must be made at home and stored in accordance with FSAI guidelines. All staff participated in the review and update of the health eating policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of the message (on a private instant message application) to parent and guardians, advising that powdered infant formula needs to be prepared in accordance with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) best practice guidance, which advises that powdered infant formula is made up at home, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 22 has been adequately addressed.

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 side entrance patio doors were secure to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The external play area adjacent to the Minions room was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area. It is acknowledged that the outdoor play area adjacent to the Giraffe room was under redevelopment and currently not in use.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children attending the two playrooms.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trip or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- There were intact safety straps as per manufacturer’s instructions, on the highchairs in the minion room.
- There were visibility stickers on patio glass double doors as a safety precaution.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- A documented risk assessment of the indoor and outdoor play areas was available for review.

Infection Control:

- Staff involved in the serving of food and nappy changing used disposal aprons and gloves when nappy changing.
- The children’s belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and in designated storage containers.

- The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled / stored within the nappy changing area.
- The nappy changing area had a leak-proof, sealable airtight container for the disposal of nappies.
- The nappy changing policy was displayed on the wall of the nappy changing area and staff completed nappy changing sheet records for each child requiring nappy change, with a section for staff comment / remedial action taken.
- Children's soothers were sterilized using a steam sterilizer.
- A cleaning and disinfection schedule was presented /available for inspection. There were cleaning schedules and records for the playrooms, communal areas, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas and on the cleaning and disinfection procedure undertaken in the service. The records reviewed showed that high contact areas were cleaned regularly during the day and the service was thoroughly cleaned each evening after it had closed.
- The outdoor play equipment was cleaned after each child's use / prior to each child's use - with documented records maintained.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposal paper towels and disinfectant spray, the inspector observed this practice on the day of inspection.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playrooms.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Medicines examined were within date.
- Staff advised that the suncreams supplied by parents and guardians, and stored in the service, dates of expiry were checked on an annual basis.

Safe Sleep:

- There were 4 cots and 4 stackable beds available for children requiring sleep provision. Three children were observed sleeping on demand following signs of tiredness, in cots, on the day of inspection.
- Each child had a designated linen.
- A staff member physically checked sleeping children's, colour, position and breathing and the room temperature and this was reflected in the sleep records.
- The sleep policy detailed the correct temperature, lighting, ventilation, and child safety requirements.
- There was a thermometer in the sleep room to ensure safe sleep room temperatures.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Minion room, there were sections of exposed weed barrier, which were a potential tripping hazard as the bark mulch was limited / lacking.

Infection Control:

2. On the day of inspection, in conflict with best practice the children and staff did not consistently wash their hands after nappy changing / toileting, prior to eating, and after outdoor play.
For example, at 12.40hrs, in the Minion room, only 1 child out of 7 had their hands washed prior to having their main meal. At 13.16hrs, a staff member was observed nappy changing and the child did not have the opportunity to wash their hands, following the procedure. At 13.30hrs, a staff member was observed nappy changing and did not wash her hands after the procedure and did not offer the 2 children who were nappy changed the opportunity to wash their hands.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 19th and 24th of July 2023, the registered provider advised of the following;

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. In the outdoor area adjacent to the Minion room, bark mulch was delivered to cover this barrier weed membrane and thus eliminate any potential tripping hazard. A staff meeting was held to inform staff that a risk assessment of the outdoor area needs to be carried out each day to ensure all hazards are highlighted and remedial actions taken.

Infection Control:

2. The hand washing policy was updated and reviewed by all staff. Both staff and children will comply with the hand washing policy / procedure going forward staff and children's hands will be washed correctly before each meal, after outdoor play and after toilet and nappy changing. Staff received training on the updated nappy changing policy to ensure their hands are washed after each nappy change regardless if the staff member is wearing gloves.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence of the delivery of new bark mulch was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Infection Control:

2. The updated hand washing policy was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

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 service provided evidence that seven staff who were trained in first aid for children were available to the children, attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid bag, with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in conspicuous position in the playrooms.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid bag was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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) A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated 31st of May 2023.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated May 2023.
- The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 16th of May 2023.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the pre-school of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service's insurance specifying the address of the service, catering for a full day care service for 23 children at any one time, with an expiry date of 27th of March 2024, was available. The insurance covered -

- public liability,
- personal accident,
- against fire and theft,
- outings,
- building.