

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016LK009		
Name of Service:	Sunshine Preschool & Afterschool		
Address of Service:	St Senans National School, Foynes, Co. Limerick		
Eircode:	V94 XHT9		
Name of Registered Provider:	Monika Culhane		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	14/11/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM 4
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick		
Inspection undertaken by:	J 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

This is a registered full day care service and provides care and education for children aged 2 years and 9 months – 5 years, operating Monday – Friday, 08.00hours – 17.00 hours, for 38 weeks of the year. It also operates a breakfast club and a school age service. The service operates from a designated playroom in the national school. It has sanitary facilities for the children and adults and has its own enclosed outdoor play area to the back of the premises. Children have daily access to the school yard and the local playing pitch.

Staffing

There are seven staff employed in the service and five staff have childcare qualifications. The registered provider is also the manager of the service.

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 and health, welfare and development of child. The inspection 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 inspectors 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, 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise available on the day.
- (b) The person in charge and the deputy person were on the premises when the inspector arrived at the service.
- (2)(a) Two written validated references from past employers were available for four staff.
- (b) Written and verified references from sources other than past employers were not required.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all seven staff.
- (4) Five staff working directly with the children attending the service held an award in early childhood care and education on the national qualifications framework document.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a) Two written validated references from past employers were not available for three staff.
- (d) Police vetting was not available for a staff who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(a) Two references for each of the three staff members are now available and validated.
- (d) International vetting is now available for the staff member who had lived in another jurisdiction.

Supporting documentation submitted

Relevant documents were submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet with the requirements of the Regulation 9.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were 13 pre-school children aged 3 – 5 years being supervised by 3 adults for the morning session. The adult/child ratio on the day of the inspection met with the minimum requirements of 1:11.

There were 4 children who attended the full day care service and who were supervised by 2 adults.

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

(1) The records for a preschool child contained the following information.

- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The records for a preschool child did not contain the following information.

(c) The date on which the child ceased to attend the service.

(g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.

(h) Record of immunisations, if any, received by the child.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The following information has been added to each child's record.

(c) The date on which the child ceased to attend the service.

(g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.

(h) Record of immunisations, if any, received by the child.

Supporting documentation submitted

Not applicable.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet with the requirements of the Regulation 15.

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

BASIC NEEDS:

The children brought their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included: sandwiches, a selection of fruit and drinks of water. Children sat together around the tables and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food. Children were allowed eat their snacks at any time if they were hungry. Bread and toast was available and there was a supply of bottled water available in the fridge. Menu plans were available for the children who attended full time and dinners were sourced locally each day.

The children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. Children were encouraged to use a tissue to clean their noses if required. Children toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it. The children enjoyed freedom of movement within the pre-school room. There was a plentiful supply of play props available to support sensorial play. The indoor environment had a range of developmentally appropriate and challenging experiences such as a construction corner, sand box, reading/relaxing area, home and family corner, dress up area, creativity area, dining table, games table art easel, mark making area, music corner and a box of leaves/twigs. The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. Staff modelled positive behaviour for the children and the children were praised for their good behaviour.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Staff were observed to be kind and caring in all her interactions with the children. Each child was treated as an individual and had their likes, abilities and natural tendencies understood and respected.

A large play area at the rear of the facility was available where children had access to messy play. Children play outdoors every day and have wellingtons and wet gear available in the event of poor weather conditions. Parents, staff and children celebrated 'lantern day' and 'saint martin's day' recently which supported a sense of working in partnership with parents. An adult sized couch and adult armchair was provided in the service since the last inspection and it facilitated adults and children sitting together and interacting with each other. Sleep beds were available for the children who attended full time if they required a sleep.

Staff were observed to be interested in the children, listened to them and spoke to them using a soft tone of voice and positive language, engaging them in conversation and giving each child the opportunity to express themselves. Children were observed to lead their own play and choose different play activities.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Each pre-school child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by the registered provider. This record was available on the attendance register.

(3)(a) The registered provider ensured that no person other than the following were allowed enter the service.

(i) Pre-school child attending the service.

(ii) A person dropping or collecting such a child.

(iii) An employee.

(iv) An unpaid worker can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee.

(b) A record in writing was kept of persons who entered the service on the visitors logbook.

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) Staff held current certification in first aid for children.
- (2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the playroom.
- (b)The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child

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 fire drills were practiced monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 25/10/2023.
- (b)The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in November 2022 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises which were serviced in June 2023.
- (4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playroom.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available to cover the number of children who attended.