

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017OY500				
Name of Service:	Little Scholars				
Address of Service:	154 Ballin Ri, Collins Lane, Tullamore, Co. Offaly				
Eircode:	R35 KV88				
Name of Registered Provider:	Yvonne Gleeson				
Service type:	Full Day, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	25/02/2025				
Date of Regulatory Compliance meeting:	29/04/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>55</td> <td>PM</td> <td>53</td> </tr> </table>	AM	55	PM	53
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan and C. O'Connor Hughes
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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.
	Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2017OY500
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Description of service

The service is registered as a full day care service to operate between the hours of 07:45am and 18:00 hours. The age range of children that the service can accommodate is 1 to 6 years of age. The Early Years' Service is located in a purpose-built two storey premises. Four pre-school rooms, two sleep rooms, a kitchen, a staff room and a reception area are provided on the ground floor. One pre-school room and an office are provided on the first floor. An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the service. On-site parking and set down facilities are available. The service is situated in a residential area on the outskirts of the town of Tullamore, County Offaly.

Staffing

Fifteen adults including the registered provider are employed in the service. On the day of the inspection there were fourteen adults present and of these, thirteen were working directly with the children including the person in charge and deputy person in charge. The registered provider was not present on the inspector's arrival. The registered provider came on site after the inspection had commenced and stayed for the remainder of the inspection and the closing meeting.

One adult was employed to provide additional support to care rooms as needed. A cook is employed to freshly prepare food daily but was not in on the day of the inspection. The registered provider undertook the role of the cook on the 25 February 2025.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under

- Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1)(2)(8)(a) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 16(1) (k) – Record in relation to pre-school service.
- Regulation 19(1)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 25 (1)(2)(a)(b) – First aid.
- Regulation 26 (1)(a)(b)(4) – Fire Safety measures.
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.

however, on inspection additional non-compliances were identified under:

- Regulation 16(1)(h)(i) - Record of Pre-School Child.
- Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play.
- Regulation 27 -Supervision.

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under

- Regulation 16(1) (k) – Record in relation to pre-school service.
- Regulation 19(1)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.
- Regulation 27 – Supervision.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Baby and Senior Wobbler, Toddler and Junior Pre-school rooms.

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

1. Two written immediate action notices under Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child were issued onsite to the registered provider on 25 February 2025.
2. Written responses were submitted by the registered provider on 26 February 2025 outlining the measures taken to address and mitigate the identified risks. The written responses were assessed and accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate.
3. A regulatory compliance meeting was conducted by the Inspection and Registration Manager with the Registered Provider of the service on 29 April 2025.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.

(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 files of fourteen staff members and the registered provider were assessed and the following was noted.

(2)

(a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer were available in respect of fourteen adults employed in the service.

Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for fifteen adults working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for two adults who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

(4) Fifteen adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 in the baby room, senior wobbler room and toddler room with the exception of the non-compliance outlined below.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

- There were fifty-five children attending the service and they were supervised directly by twelve adults. A sufficient number of adults were not provided to meet the adult: child ratio in the junior pre-school room. There were two adults caring for 18 children aged 3-4 years attending on full day basis. Three adults were required to maintain the adult: child ratio.

(2)

- At 14:10 – 14:16 hours two children aged 2-3 years were observed asleep on low level beds in Senior Wobbler room unsupervised as the staff member left the room to attend to another child. The door to the room was observed to be left open on to the main corridor. One adult was required to remain with the two sleeping children to maintain the required adult: child ratio at all times.

This was a non-compliance following inspections conducted on 6 February 2018 and 9 January 2023. The corrective actions submitted by the registered provider following the inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1, 2.

The management has employed two additional staff to help always meet the adult child ratio. A staff member is allocated to be a floater on the floor to help with pressurised times. The management will ensure that the roster has additional staff members and will also ensure in advance what relief workers are available for that coming week to have sufficient cover and won't let it happen again.

See appendix 1 and 2

Supporting documentation submitted

1, 2. Staff roster. Staff files for two new staff members recruited.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate.

The minimum requirement for regulatory compliance for regulation 11 is met. Regulation 11 will be assessed at the next inspection.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The adults working with the children spoke and interacted with them to in a kind and respectful manner. Their first names were used, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions. The adults were familiar with each child and their personality. Access and inclusion plans were in place for children requiring extra support and assistance. Adults assisted children with the various tabletop activities and praised them on the completion of activities in the toddler room. Children were engaged by adults in story time in the cosy corner of the Junior pre-school room.

Food and snacks were provided at regular intervals during the day. Young children had the opportunity to feed themselves and their drinks were within their reach throughout the day should they feel thirsty.

Nappy changing was completed regularly and promptly when required. It was managed in a sensitive and positive manner. All children requiring sleep, slept at a designated time during the day and were provided with as much time as they needed to sleep. Children in the toddler room slept on low level beds after their main meal supervised by an adult. Older children were encouraged to be independent as they managed their personal belongings and got dressed for outdoor play assisted by adults as needed.

Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times. A daily written record was maintained in Baby and Senior Wobbler rooms and outlined food eaten, time nappies were changed, sleep times, activities and other comments. Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary and email and telephone contact are used as an alternative method of contact. The children's play and work activities are recorded in "My Learning Journey" and shared with parents at the end of the pre-school term.

The outdoor area was located at the rear of the premises. The children in the baby room and junior pre-school room were provided with outdoor play morning and afternoon.

Non-Compliance Information

1. In the Senior Wobbler room, the transition from lunch to sleep was rushed and disorganised as evidenced by the following observations:
 - Some children who had finished eating were then prepared for sleep in the adjoining sleep room initially by the two adults leaving three children still eating their lunch at the two tables. One of the adults then went and attended to the children eating lunch.
 - A child was observed eating food left over in bowls and also food spilled on the table. The child was not offered additional food despite staff stating that extra portions were available if any child remained hungry.
2. In the Senior Wobbler room, the children's hands and faces were cleaned with wipes after their lunch rather than wet face cloths to minimise any skin sensitivities.
3. There was no armchair available in the Baby and Senior Wobbler rooms for staff to sit when feeding children or to comfort a child.

This was a non-compliance following an inspection conducted on 15 July 2019. The corrective action submitted by the registered provider following the inspection failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

4. Children in the Senior Wobbler and Toddler rooms did not have the opportunity for outdoor play during the inspection.

This was an area of non-compliance following inspection conducted on 9 January 2023. The corrective action submitted by the registered provider following the inspection failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The management have added an additional staff member who is available for the pressurised points during the day. The management along with staff have completed training to ensure that all updated policies including transitions are adhered to help the children enjoy smoother transitions. An additional staff member will remain floating throughout the day to help the ease of transitions in the wobbler room.
2. The staff have been advised to no longer use water wipes to clean children's faces and we have purchased face Cloths to clean them with warm soapy water. Staff use warm soapy water with face cloths to clean the children's faces to minimise any skin sensitivities.
3. We have replaced both chairs that were in our baby room for staff to sit on while feeding children in the highchairs and while comforting a child. Two armchairs have been purchased and added to both our junior and senior wobbler rooms.
4. There is a timetable in place for all the children to have an opportunity for outdoor play and both the Wobblers and Toddler room avail of their outdoor time at 9:00am. They came back inside on that day at 9:40am to get

ready for morning snack. We understand the importance of the outdoors and have a timetable in all rooms which is strictly followed to ensure that every room get the opportunity to go outside in both the morning and evening.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Staff roster with additional staff recently recruited.
2. No evidence submitted.
3. Invoice and photograph of chairs purchased.
4. Timetable for outdoors.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate.

The minimum requirement for regulatory compliance for regulation 19(1)(b) is met. Regulation 19(1)(b) will be assessed at the next inspection.

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 door to the service was secured and managed by staff members to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The inspectors' visit completed the visitor's book on arrival. The service had a system in place to manage maintenance issues.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's handwashing before snack and mealtimes and after nappy changing. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. Children's soothers were stored in single containers when not in use. The nappy changing procedure and practice was observed to be consistent with the service's nappy changing procedure displayed. Children were observed to have their hands washed prior to snacks and meals.

Fridge temperatures were recorded and maintained within the correct limits.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored.

Safe Sleep:

It was observed that 10-minute sleep check observations were completed on all sleeping children and the staff documented the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children in their care.

Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills had been carried out and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire exits were not obstructed.

Outing:

The service does not conduct outings.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Appropriate safeguards were not taken to maintain the safety of children on the ground floor as evidenced by the following observations:

1. The door to the kitchen was wedged open and not secured to prevent a child from accessing this area.
2. The door to the office / staff room was open. The safety clips on the fridge and the press under the sink in this area were not secured to prevent a child accessing them. Hazardous items included an open box of dishwasher tablets, a bottle of sterilising fluid, a spray bottle of limescale remover, a spray bottle of window and glass cleaner were all accessible to a child and posed a risk of harm if they were handled or ingested.

This was a non-compliance following inspection conducted on 15 July 2019. The corrective action submitted by the registered provider following the inspection failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

3. Three cord blinds were not secured in the Senior Wobbler room.

This was a non-compliance following inspections conducted on 6 February 2018 and 15 July 2019. The corrective actions submitted by the registered provider following the inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

A written immediate action notice under Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child was issued onsite to the registered provider on 25 February 2025.

4. Fourteen dancing ribbons were observed to be attached to a wooden rail in the Baby room and were accessible to the children in the room. Dancing ribbons are not suitable for use with children aged under 18 months and must be used with adult supervision. They posed a potential risk of choking / entanglement to the children. The risk was brought to the attention of the staff members in the Baby room who removed the ribbons from the wooden rail.
5. Two wall mounted fire extinguishers in the entrance hallway were partially blocked by a black bin bag and a coat hanger. These could impede access to the equipment in the event of a fire emergency.

This was a non-compliance following inspection conducted on 15 July 2019. The corrective action submitted by the registered provider following the inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

6. A non-slip floor mat was not in place in the toddler room. The mat in place posed a potential risk of slip, trip and falls to children and staff.

Infection Control:

7. It was observed that a child dropped their soother on the floor. It was picked up by a staff member who put it under running water from the tap and returned it to the child who promptly put it in their mouth. This was not an appropriate infection control practice.
8. There was a lack of clarity about the system in place for the management of mouthing toys in the Baby and Senior Wobbler room. There was no evidence that a container of sterilising solution, freshly made up daily was available in the service on the day of the inspection. It is acknowledged that there was a bottle of sterilising solution in the service. This area of practice needs to be reviewed, and a system put in place to manage the immediate sterilisation of shared toys, soothers and equipment in the Baby and Senior Wobbler rooms for infection control purposes.
9. The staff member supervising the children's handwashing before meals allowed the children to dispose of their hand towels by handling the lid of the bin which posed a risk of cross contamination. The bin had a foot pedal to use.

This was a non-compliance following inspection conducted on 9 January 2023. The corrective action submitted by the registered provider following the inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Safe Sleep:

10. One mattress did not have protective waterproof covering and the foam was exposed which created a potential risk of harm for a child if they ingested a piece of the exposed foam. This practice did not align with the Safe Sleep policy which stated under sleep environment that "Cot mattresses / rest mats /toddler beds should be completely covered in waterproof fabric such as PVC. All mattresses should be regularly inspected for signs of damage to the waterproof fabric and if punctured, cracked or torn, should be replaced immediately."

The daily risk assessment had been completed for the sleep room attached to the Senior Wobbler room on 25 February 2025. The hazard titled "The children have clean and safe bedding" was positively ticked.

A written immediate action notice under Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child was issued onsite to the registered provider on 25 February 2025.

11. The sleep template record used for documenting sleep observations was illegible and required to be rewritten.
12. The staff members were not familiar with the revised sleep room temperatures as per the updated Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The management have removed the wedge from the kitchen door and new locks have been purchased to add an additional layer of safety along with keeping the staff room door locked.
2. In addition to the above we have reviewed our systems and staff now put their personal belongings in a new location which minimizes the use of the staff room. We will ensure the door always remains locked. The role of Health & Safety has now been added to the Early Supervisors Risk assessment morning list and checks will be carried out each morning to ensure that the Kitchen and Staff room are both locked.
3. The three short Cord blinds were secured by 9am the morning after the inspection.
4. These ribbons were removed during the inspection and are now stored in the art press for a supervised sensory experience for all the children. The ribbons have been removed from our baby room.
5. The Black bin bag which had children's clothes for the charity shop was removed during the inspection and the coat hanger is now in the main hallway. Staff are aware that all fire extinguishers must be kept assessable at all times.
6. The new car play mat has been removed from the floor. We will ensure when purchasing children's floor mats in the future that they are non-slip before placing them on the floor.

Infection Control:

7. The morning supervisor will ensure that a fresh jug of sterilising fluid is available in both rooms to sterilise the soothers and mouthed toys, this task has now been added to the morning routine for our morning supervisor. At a recent staff meeting training was provided by management to ensure a clear understanding of our infection control policy with a particular focus on soothers. We have completed staff training at our last staff meeting on Infection control, mouthed toys and cross contamination along with other policy. All staff had an opportunity to take turns on the steps needed to ensure the policy and procedure was executed correctly. The management have ensured that the staff training has been updated, and staff are confident in carrying out all procedures in their required roles.
8. The management have added labelled baskets for mouthed toys to both rooms and training on infection control has been provided. At the recent staff meeting training was provided on the systems in place for the sterilisation of mouthed toys and staff signed off on their understanding and training on the infection control policy.
9. The staff have completed training on Infection control policies and the importance of the same. This was completed and signed off on at our staff meeting. At a recent staff meeting the infection control policy was

highlighted as a non-compliance and we have refreshed this training with a particular emphasis on hand hygiene and the risks of cross contamination. Staff have signed off on this training.

Safe Sleep:

10. The management have implemented a morning checklist to ensure that all safety measures and risk assessments are in place, and these procedures will be implemented and signed off by the supervisor. The supervisor will ensure that paperwork is not ticked off positively if the action wasn't completed.
11. We have disposed of the old illegible sleep records and have put new records in place. Sleep records have been updated, and templates have been kept on file.
12. Staff have now made themselves familiar with the new updated guidance and any new updates and training will be placed on the staff room notice board to highlight the importance of keeping up to date. At a recent staff meeting the updated guidance for the sector on sleep provision was highlighted and we have refreshed this training including sleep room temperatures. Staff have signed off on this training.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Morning checklist for environmental health and safety.
2. Photograph with signage on door and small sliding lock at top of door.
3. Photograph.
4. Photograph.
5. Photograph.
6. Photograph.

Infection Control:

7, 8, 9. Cleaning and sterilisation of mouthing toys document with guidance on how this is to be completed, staff sign sheet that this has been read/ Staff sign sheet that Infection control policy read / staff meeting minutes.

Safe Sleep:

7. Risk assessment document.
8. Revised sleep record.
9. Staff sign sheet that Safe sleep policy. Staff meeting minutes.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate.

The minimum requirement for regulatory compliance for regulation 23 is met. Regulation 23 will be assessed at the next inspection.

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) Two staff members trained in first aid response (FAR) were available to children from 09:00am to 18:00 hours.

(2)(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the care rooms inspected.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There were no staff members trained in in first aid response (FAR) and immediately available to the children attending the service from 07:45 to 9:00am, Monday – Friday.

(2)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were not available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

- There were no antiseptic wipes and an insufficient number of bandages in the first aid boxes in the senior wobbler room and staff room.

This was a non-compliance following inspections conducted on 15 July 2019, 9 January 2023 and 15 May 2024 . The corrective actions submitted by the registered provider following the inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) The staff roster reflects someone with FAR training in the service from 7:45-6:00. We will continue ensure to have a staff member with FAR is on site from 7:45-6:00.

(2)(b) We have sourced a supplier of antiseptic wound wipes that are alcohol free along with additional bandages in Line with the quality and regulatory framework. We have sourced a supplier of antiseptic alcohol-free wipes and extra bandages have been purchased for each of the three First aid boxes on the premises to reflect the number of children in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Staff roster.
- (2)(b) Picture of alcohol wipes and bandages submitted.

Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Regulatory requirement is met for regulation 25. This area will be assessed at the next inspection.

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 fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was 20 February 2025.
 - (b)

A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment was serviced in August 2024 and the smoke alarm was last serviced on 12 December 2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the entrance hallway and rooms of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2025. The insurance provided cover for 63 children.

Additional Regulation inspected.

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.

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)
(k)
Further to a corrective action taken since the last inspection on 15 May 2024, the registered provider ensured that a record in writing with details of any accident, injury or incident involving a child attending the service was available; this was supported by the documentary evidence reviewed for a sample size of fourteen accident and incident reports assessed.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
(h)
1. The registered provider did not ensure that the children’s attendance record in the Junior pre-school room was completed in real time on their arrival to the premises. At 09:45am it was observed that the time of entry to the service was not recorded on the children’s attendance book.
This was a non-compliance following inspections conducted on 6 February 2018. The corrective action submitted by the registered provider following the inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

(i)

2. The registered provider did not ensure that the staff roster reflected the details on a daily basis as one adult was not on the roster and one adult's hours did not correspond with the hours that she stated that she was working on the day of the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The manager has given this role to the room leader in every room to ensure that all children's attendance is taken in real time every morning and evening. The management will ensure that all Roll call books are completed in real time, and this will be checked when getting the numbers of each room for dinner.
2. The Management will ensure that there are set hours in place for relief workers to provide adequate cover and are familiar with their set hours. We will continue to have a number of relief staff on our roster and have established set hours for our relief staff

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The written response submitted by the Registered Provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory requirement is met for regulation 16. This area will be assessed at the next inspection.

Additional Regulation inspected.

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-

(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.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The mattresses of four of the eleven cots were unsuitable as evidenced by the following observations:
 - There was no documentary evidence provided that two of the cot mattresses complied with EU safety standards.
 - An exposed foam mattress was noted in cot 3 (right hand side) in the senior wobbler sleep room. Protective covering was not in place and there was no EU safety standard information including a fire safe label attached.

- Three of the four mattresses did not have a fire safe label.
- One cot mattress was not fitted with a waterproof cover.

This practice did not align with the Safe Sleep policy which stated under sleep environment that “Cot mattresses / rest mats /toddler beds should be completely covered in waterproof fabric such as PVC. All mattresses should be regularly inspected for signs of damage to the waterproof fabric and if punctured, cracked or torn, should be replaced immediately.”

This was a non-compliance following inspections conducted on 6 February 2018, 9 May 2022, 9 January 2023 and 15 May 2024. The corrective actions submitted by the registered provider following the inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

2. The minimum 50 cm distance between the cots in the two sleep rooms was not observed as evidenced by the following observations:
 - The minimum distance of 50 cm between three of the cots in the sleep room attached to the Baby room was not maintained.
 - The minimum distance of 50 cm between five cots in the sleep room attached to the Senior Wobbler room was not maintained.
 - The minimum distance of 50 cm between two level beds in the toddler room was not maintained.
 - There were seven cots in the sleep room attached to the Senior Wobbler room. The sleep room can accommodate six cots to ensure that the minimum 50 cm distance can be maintained at all times.
3. A cot was placed beside a blind covering the viewing window in the sleep room attached the Senior Wobbler room. It was observed that the blind was accessible to the child using the cot who was observed pulling at the blind.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The cots and mattresses have been replaced. Cots and mattress which comply with the EU safety standards have been purchased. We have sourced new mattresses that comply with the EU safety standards and will continue to ensure that all of our mattress is compliant with the EU safety standards.
2. We have placed sticky tape measuring 50cm between the cots and will ensure that these measurements always remain in place. The management has purchased 50cm sticky tape to ensure the required distance is maintained at all times. New space saver cots have been purchased to ensure there is sufficient room in both the sleep rooms which allows additional space.

3. The viewing blind has been removed from the sleep room and will be placed in the Senior Wobbler room for the Staff to adjust accordingly.

Supporting documentation submitted.

1. Invoice
2. Photographs of the sleep rooms with tape measure.
3. Photographs of viewing panel.

Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Regulatory requirement is met for regulation 20. This area will be assessed at the next inspection.

Additional Regulation inspected.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

During the course of the inspection, it was observed that children from the Junior pre-school room were not supervised by staff while they used the toilet. Children left the room, went to the toilet and did not wash their hands, the children returned to the room and engaged in play activities. Staff did not observe or listen out for the children using the toilet facilities.

This practice did not align with the Supervision of Children - Indoors and Outdoor policy which stated that “Staff should ensure their presence and position in the rooms allows all areas of the room are under constant supervision and that all children are in sight of at least one member of staff at all times.”

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The management have updated the supervision of children policy which will ensure that children are always supervised in the bathrooms. Room leader will ensure that there is always a staff member supervising in the bathrooms and the key workers bring their group of children to ensure ratio and efficiency.

Supporting documentation submitted

Updated policy document.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate.

The minimum regulatory requirement is met for regulation 27. This area of practice will be assessed at the next inspection.