

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2017RN500 |
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| Name of Service: | ABC Childcare |
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| Address of Service: | Loch View, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon. |
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| Eircode: | N39 V210 |
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| Name of Registered Provider: | Collette Brennan |
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| Service type: | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional |
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| Date 1 of Inspection: | 08/06/2023 |
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| Date 2 of Inspection: | 09/06/2023 |
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|---|----|----|----|----|
| No of pre-school children: Day 1 | AM | 48 | PM | 32 |
| No of pre-school children: Day 2 | AM | 44 | PM | 27 |

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| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon. |
| Inspection undertaken by: | A Kennedy & H Heagney |
| 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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not applicable |
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Description of service

This privately owned single storey early years' service is on its own grounds, in the town of Roscommon. This service offers a full day care and part time care provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care and sessional care programmes are also offered. The service is registered for 55 pre-school children aged 0 to 6 years of age. There is a main building with a Wobbler room, Toddler room, ECCE Junior pm room and a designated sleep room. In this building there is also a kitchen, where children's main meals are prepared, and cooked. There is a separate building with a designated entrance with the Junior ECCE room, Senior Pre-school room, and the service office. There are outdoor play areas to the rear and side of the premises for children's play, and exploration. There is a designated car park to the front of the premises. The service is also registered to offer a school aged programme for 24 children.

Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. There is a designated person in charge and there is a named person able to deputise. Eleven staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. Additionally, there is a designated chef who prepares, cooks, and serves the daily main meals / snacks.

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.

Additional Information

On the 12th of June 2023, an immediate action notice was issued, for Regulation 23 (Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child) as on both days of inspection, the sleep room (for the children aged 1 to 3 years from the Wobbler and Toddler rooms) and the playroom temperatures (for the Senior Pre-school room and Junior ECCE room) were above the safety requirements. On Day 2 of the inspection, the designated entrance (into the Junior ECCE room, Senior Pre-school room, and the service office), was not secure to prevent unauthorised / unsupervised access / egress.

On the 13th, 14th and 15th of June 2023, the registered provider, advised of remedial actions taken to reduce the temperatures in the sleep room and the playrooms. The remedial measures to secure the entrance door to ensure the safety of the children was provided.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the days 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.

(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)

The service had a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise.

(b)

The childcare manager was the designated person in charge and on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

On Day 1 of the inspection, from 10.40hrs, the regional manager was on site and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. On Day 2 of the inspection, from 15.00hrs, the registered provider was on site.

Documentary evidence indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

The thirteen staff files were reviewed.

(2)

(a)&(b)

Twenty-six of the twenty-six, written validated references, on file in respect of the thirteen staff, were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the thirteen staff.

(d)
Documentary evidence indicated that three of the thirteen staff, who had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than six consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years, had the required police vetting. It is acknowledged that where applicable, these police vettings were translated by a reputable source.

(4)
Eleven staff working directly with the children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Non-Compliance Information

(4)
One staff member working directly with the children, had a component certificate and not a completed certificate or evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education. It is acknowledged that the training college is no longer operating.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 14th of July 2023, the person in charge advised of the following-

Corrective and Preventive Action

(4)
The service has received a letter from DCYA to confirm staff component certificate is acceptable and covers the staff member to work directly with the children, meeting the minimum qualification of QQI Level 5. This has been added to the staff member's file. The service has updated their recruitment policy and all staff qualifications will be checked and verified prior to the staff members starting date.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the confirmation letter regarding the record of awards dated 10th of May 2023, advising the staff member has met the minimum qualification of QQI Level 5, was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 has been adequately addressed.

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)

On the days of inspection, the following details regarding the adult child ratio were obtained.

On the morning of Day 1 of the inspection, there were 48 children present.

- 2 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 10 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 36 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were 6 staff directly caring for these children.

From 10.40hrs, the regional manager assisted with the administration parts of the inspection and acted as childcare relief.

At 11.30hrs, an additional staff member commenced in the service and acted as childcare relief.

At 11.57hrs, an additional staff member commenced in the service and acted as childcare relief.

At 12.30hrs, an additional staff member commenced in the service and acted as childcare relief.

There was also a chef working in the service.

On the afternoon of Day 1 of the inspection, there were 32 children present.

- 2 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 10 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 20 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were 5 staff directly caring for these children.

The regional manager assisted with the administration parts of the inspection and acted as childcare relief.

There was also a chef working in the service.

In the afternoon, there were 11 school aged children attending the afterschool programme with 2 staff directly caring for these children.

On the morning of Day 2 of the inspection, there were 44 children present.

- 1 child was aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 8 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 35 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were 9 staff directly caring for these children.

Also, the regional manager assisted with the administration parts of the inspection and acted as childcare relief.

There was a chef working in the service.

On the afternoon of Day 2 of the inspection, there were 27 children present.

- 1 child was aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 8 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 18 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were 5 staff directly caring for these children.

The regional manager assisted with the administration parts of the inspection and acted as childcare relief.

There was also a chef working in the service.

From 15.00hrs, the registered provider was also on site.

In the afternoon there were 11 school aged children attending the afterschool programme with 2 staff directly caring for these children.

(8)(a)

The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school service was operating.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
1. On Day 2 of the inspection, from 13.00hrs to 13.20hrs, there was one staff member in the Senior Pre-school room, caring for 9 children, (aged 3 to 5 years), when the required adult child ratio for children aged 3 to 6 years, attending a full day care, is 1 adult to 8 children.
 2. The attendance records and staff rosters reviewed by the early year's inspectors were incomplete to advise if the adult child ratios were adhered to, during the hours of operation. In conflict with best practice the attendance record pod sheets reviewed captured the staff member's first name only and covered the weekly rather than the daily attendance. The records did not account for the staff members' start / finishing times and or break / relief arrangements. The section of the daily attendance books which

allowed for the staff details was blank. The children's attendance records were recorded for each playroom on both 'attendance record pod sheets' and on a daily attendance book. It was observed that two children's first names only, rather than their full name were documented on both records.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 14th of July 2023, the person in charge advised of the following-

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
1. Staff have been advised and informed of the adult / child ratio requirement. The service has implemented a new role book which also outlines staff cover and time of breaks / lunch cover. Management will monitor compliance of adult child ratios. Additional relief staff will also be employed to cover staff breaks and lunch cover.
 2. Bespoke attendance records have been commenced for each room. This allows for the recording of children/staff attendance and break times. All staff have been trained in how to complete these attendance records correctly, and the room leaders will be responsible for ensuring accuracy. The manager will review the adult child attendance records on a weekly basis.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of the attendance record sheets, and evidence of staff relief cover was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence of the weekly record for staff cover and the children's daily attendance records, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 11 have been adequately addressed.

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)

A sample of nineteen children’s records were reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The nineteen 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.

Details of any immunisations that the child has had.

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

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 person in charge advised and documentary evidence from the file review indicated, that the pre-school had a system to allow 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 tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- On Day 1 of the inspection, there were seven children from the Wobbler, Toddler and Junior ECCE rooms, who wore nappies and had their nappies changed on a regular basis. On Day 2 of the inspection, there were five children from the Wobbler and Toddler rooms, who wore nappies and were regularly changed.
- On both days of the inspection, the older children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance. All the children had opportunities to move about freely and explore the indoor and outdoor environments.
- On both days of the inspection, the younger children in the Wobbler and Toddler rooms were observed playing in the kitchen/ home area, stacking, hammering, and at tabletop activities. The children engaged in nursery rhymes and danced to action songs.

- On both days of the inspection, the older children in the Junior ECCE room, Senior Pre-school room and Junior ECCE pm room, were observed playing games, drawing, at tabletop activities, playing house / kitchen, at imaginative play and reading books.
- On both days of the inspection, all children had the opportunity to play in the outdoor areas to the rear and side of the premises. The children were observed running, chasing, watering the plants, on ride on toys, bicycles, tricycles, playing ball, at imaginative play and on the climbing frame.

Non-Compliance Information

1. On Day 1 of the inspection, at 11.25hrs, the privacy and dignity of the five children from the Wobbler room, having a nappy change was not respected. The early years inspectors observed a staff member lifting a child onto the nappy changing unit, changing the child's nappy, while the four other remaining children sat on seating in this area and observed the nappy changing of each child, in turn. It was observed that the five children from the Wobbler room were brought into a storeroom with a nappy changing unit. The location of the nappy changing unit was inappropriately situated, in a storeroom with no privacy screen resulting in a child, being easily viewed by another child, while having their nappy changed.

On Day 1 of the inspection, it was observed that the privacy and dignity of a child from the Junior ECCE room, having their nappy changed was not maintained. The early years inspectors observed, and a staff member confirmed that she lifted a child onto the wall mounted unit, in the sanitary area (used by the children from the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room), while other children continued to access the toilets, and wash hand basins and could thereby observe the nappy changing of the child. The location of the nappy changing unit was inappropriately situated, directly between the door of one of the four children's toilets and one of the four wash hand basins. It is acknowledged that the service had a shower curtain as a privacy screen, but this had limited coverage (by the unit with the wash hand basins and the entrance to the toilet) and was not used on the day, while the child had their nappy changed. Also, it was observed that this main sanitary entrance door, (between the Junior ECCE room and Senior room) remained open over the two days of the inspection posing a privacy risk.

It was also observed that the location of the third nappy changing mat on a worktop, in the lobby of a child's sanitary area with one toilet (used by the children from the Toddler and Junior ECCE pm room) was inappropriate and had no privacy screen. It is acknowledged that on both days of the inspection, the early years inspectors did not observe nappy changing in this location.

2. On Day 1 and on Day 2 of the inspection, the voice of the child, their choices, interests and their age and stage of development were not considered. The care was pre-dominantly adult focused, orientated rather than child led.

For example,

- on the Day 1 of the inspection, from 13.14hrs to 13.36hrs, eighteen children from Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room were together in the Senior Pre-school room. It was observed that seven of these children were directed by staff to rest/ sleep on vinyl covered floor mats. At this time, music was playing loudly, and the room was darkened as the window blinds were pulled down. The staff members advised the seven children 'you need to go to sleep', the early years inspectors observed that these children showed no signs of tiredness and were observed jumping, hopping, and crawling. When the early years inspectors asked why the children, aged 3 to 5 years, were being asked to sleep, they were advised it was part of the written daily schedule. During this time, the remaining thirteen children were initially asked to sit quietly in their chairs, at the tables and then subsequently asked to draw on colouring sheets. It is acknowledged that on Day 2 of the inspection, the room leader advised these older children never had designated sleep time and it was observed that she removed the sleep mats stored in the floor to ceiling press, into the laundry room.
- at 15.45hrs, on Day 1 of the inspection, one staff member in the Senior Pre-school room had five children remain in the room with her while the other children went outside to play with a second staff member. These five children were requested by the staff member to clean the tables / chairs, stack the chairs, sweep the floor, and organise the books.
- on the morning of Day 2 of the inspection, one staff member in the Junior ECCE room, named five children and advised them to go to the toilet.
- on Day 2 of the inspection, in the Junior ECCE room, the children queued while one staff member handed each child a book from the room library. It was observed these books were stored in a lidded box.

3. In the Junior ECCE pm room and the Junior ECCE room, the service did not provide materials and equipment to support the environment and extend the children's learning.

For example, in the Junior ECCE pm room,

in the kitchen, there were five containers and an item of play food and no other play utensils,
in the construction area, there was a work bench with one drill and no other tools,
there were four books in poor condition in the library area,

the play garage had no play items such as cars, trucks etc.

In the Junior ECCE room,

there was a storage shelving unit with empty blue baskets,

the books were all stored in a lidded box, that was inaccessible to the children,

there was a construction table with no tools,

there was a rattler (not suitable for the age range of the children), in a basket,

paint bibs/ aprons were stored in a cardboard diaper box on a worktop, inaccessible to the children,

there were two dress-up costumes, which were inaccessible to the children, in a lidded box on a shelving unit,

there was a theatre with no props,

there was a kitchen with a chopping board and shop registers and no other equipment or utensils.

It was observed by the early years' inspectors, that the Junior ECCE room, was also used by the school aged children on both afternoons. The environment did not provide a range of challenging, diverse, creative, and enriching experiences for the pre-school children in line with their ages / stage of development. There was no designated materials and equipment or changes to the environment to ensure items were stimulating, challenging, and interesting for both the pre-school and school aged children.

4. The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were not suitable for the children's ages and stage of development.

For example,

on both days of the inspection, the children were offered teaspoons only, for eating their main meals and their snacks. On Day 1 of the inspection, it was observed that at 12.57hrs, a staff member in the Junior ECCE room, went to the service kitchen, as three children had no utensils to eat their dinner and she returned advising 'there are no more teaspoons, we will have to use big spoons',

on both days of the inspection, the school age children were offered only forks for eating their main meal,

on both days of the inspection, the children in Junior ECCE room, (aged 3 to 5 years) had a double handled unlidded beaker cup for their drinks,

on Day 1 of the inspection, the children received the afternoon snack at 15.00hrs, of a pizza slice (pepperoni and cheese or cheese only) in a bowl with a teaspoon.

5. On both days of inspection, there were three children with additional health care needs, who did not have a written individual care plan. It was also observed that the first names of three children with allergies (dairy, peanut, lactose) were displayed on the notice board of the Junior ECCE room. It is acknowledged that these children had a written guidance sheet from a doctor or a parent. This non-compliance was previously observed on the inspection of 17th of May 2022.
6. On both days of the inspection the early years inspectors observed that children had to wait for their main meal. For example,
 - on Day 1 of the inspection, the children in Junior ECCE room, had to wait 11 minutes sitting at their tables, while a staff member divided out the food. During the 11 minutes, five children were observed getting restless and at 12.45hrs, a staff member took these children outside to water the plants,
 - on Day 2 of the inspection, in the Toddler room the children sat and waited for their main meal for 15 minutes.
7. Quiet rest areas in the Wobbler room, the Junior ECCE room and Junior ECCE pm room, were inadequate and not conducive to facilitate a child to rest or relax. In the Wobbler room, there were two 2-seater plastic seats. In the Junior ECCE room, there was a 2-seater plastic seat and a 2-seater bench. In the Junior ECCE pm room, there were 2 wooden benches.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 14th of July and the 9th of August 2023, the person in charge advised of the following-

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The nappy changing and toileting policy and procedure have been updated. This has been implemented to ensure that the dignity of the child is respected. We will have a new nappy changing facility, dedicated to nappy changing only and all staff have been retrained and advised of updated nappy changing and toileting policy. The wall mounted nappy changing unit between the Junior ECCE room and Senior room has been removed.
2. Staff have received in house training around curriculum planning, child interactions, the child led curriculum and the environments to reflect the ages and stages of development of children and their care needs. Daily routines have been reviewed. Staff supervision and meetings have been conducted to allow the staff to focus on each child's learning. This will be supported / supervised by the management team. Staff meetings will also facilitate for continuous professional development. Staff have been informed of the need for flexibility in line with the children's daily care needs. Learning journals will focus on short-,

medium-and long-term planning. The voice of the child will be listened too, to ensure that children’s age and developmental care needs are met. There will be continuous review of the physical environment to enhance children’s learning.

3. All rooms have been redesigned and restocked with age-appropriate toys to meet the needs, ages, and stages of a child’s development. The monthly staff meetings will include the following: review of the environment, reflective practice, child observations, planning and curriculum themes as part of staff continuous professional development. There will also be in house training and workshops for all staff.
4. The new supply of crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils have been purchased. All staff have been advised to ensure crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils are suitable for the child’s age and stage of development.
5. Individual care plans have been updated. Staff are aware and will implement these individual care plans (which will include any child allergies / food sensitivities), in partnership with the child’s parent/ guardian and or specialist practitioner.
6. Meal waiting times have been reviewed. Meals and snacks will be served in a timely manner. The healthy eating policy has been updated and now incorporates children’s need for independence and enhancing their developmental skills, to enable the older children to ‘self-serve’.
7. We have developed quiet rest areas in the Wobbler room, the Junior ECCE room and Junior ECCE pm room, to facilitate a child to rest or relax.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of a designated nappy changing only area for the Wobbler and Toddler room children was submitted to the office of the early years’ inspectorate. Photographic evidence of a securing mechanism on the sanitary and nappy changing facilities was submitted to the office of the early years’ inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence of monthly curriculums and revised daily routines were submitted to the office of the early years’ inspectorate.
3. Photographic evidence of additional resources, materials and equipment for the Toddler, Junior ECCE pm room and Junior ECCE room were submitted to the office of the early years’ inspectorate.
4. Photographic evidence of the new supply of cutlery was submitted to the office of the early years’ inspectorate.
5. Photographic evidence of individual care plans were submitted to the office of the early years’ inspectorate.

6. The updated healthy eating policy was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.
7. Photographic evidence of quiet rest areas for the Wobbler room, the Junior ECCE room and Junior ECCE pm room, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 19 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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.
- (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 Playrooms

Some of the equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was readily accessible to the pre-school children.

Wobbler room

Material and items of interest included a home area with a cooker, sink and play accessories. There were dolls, buggies, and dolls clothes. There was a shop with shop registers and food items. There was a shelving unit with shape sorters, laptops, musical instruments, and a selection of building blocks. There were puzzles, and jigsaws. There was a wall mounted mirror and dress up clothing. There was a wall mounted sensory board with locks, a keyboard, and light switches. There was a sensory tray with shells, acorns, rice, and different types of pasta. There was art and craft materials including paint, paper, glue, brushes, glitter, and aprons.

Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids, artwork, and themes including numbers, nursery rhymes, emotions, colours, today's weather, family photographs and 'all about me'.

Toddler room

Materials and items of interest included a home area / play kitchen with a sink, cooker, microwave, fridge, a toaster and play accessories. There was a vanity unit with play accessories. There were a selection of dolls and buggies, soft toys, and puppets. There was a basket storage unit with play phones, cars, trucks, a tea-set and building blocks. There were stacking materials, musical toys, shape sorters, puzzles, playdough, shape cutters and accessories. There were sensory bottle and trays with pasta, rice, and stones.

Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids, the children's artwork, and themes including birthday balloons, colours, fruits, nursery rhymes, manners and listening skills.

Junior ECCE pm room

Materials and items of interest included a home area /play kitchen with a cooker, sink, and an oven. There was a construction area with a work bench. There was a garage, train track, and trains. There were jigsaws, puzzles, pegs and pegboards. There was a shelving unit with storage baskets/trays, containing ponies, balls, trucks, and fire engines. There were art and craft activities including paint, paper, crayons, colouring pencils, brushes, and aprons. Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids, photographs, artwork, and themes including a height chart, birthday balloons, nursery rhymes, colours, and numbers.

Junior ECCE room

Materials and items of interest included shape cutters, rolling pins, connectors, links, stencils, jigsaws, and puzzles. There were crayons, massage rollers, blocks, straws, small world, and cuddly toys. There were hairdressing items, a vanity dresser, a construction table, transport vehicles, shop registers, dolls, prams, a kitchen, and a puppet theatre.

Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids, photographs, artwork, and themes including the alphabet, lollipops, professions, every child is a different kind of flower, winter / summer clothing, our birthday raindrops, colours, emotions, nursery rhymes, and a map of Ireland. There was a weekly planner, stages of play, 'all about me', 'fill a cup with kindness', this month is and 'we had an unbillable year' bees. There was a mirror, a white board, and a notice board.

Senior Pre-school room

Materials and items of interest included books, a tent with soft matting, a doll's house, a vanity dresser, massage rollers, shapes, cards, games, counters, puzzles, and blocks. There were mix and match items, straws, connectors, a doctors' set, action figures, dinosaurs, animals, musical instruments, laptops, and a spaceship. There was an activity batman, prams, dolls, dolls, seating, a cot, crayons, scissors, paints, tracks, and transport vehicles. There was a kitchen with pots, pans, a register, a menu, baskets, plates, containers, and cupcake holders. There was a

construction table with helmets and tools. There was shelving with individual baskets for the children's belongings and a floor to ceiling storage press. There were packs and art t-shirts for the forthcoming graduation celebrations. Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids, photographs, artwork, and themes including popcorn, seasons, numbers, growing together pots, birthdays, shapes, all about me, the alphabet, feelings, and earth day. There were displays on the science process, days of the week, months of the year, today is, our daily schedule and various cards 'I am creative', 'I am grateful', 'I am beautiful' etc.

(1)(b)

There was a designated sleep room with five cots. There were eight stackable beds and vinyl floor mats available for older children's sleep provision.

(3)(a)

Outdoor area

- The outdoor areas were surrounded by fencing and gates. The areas were covered with artificial grass, bark, and concrete.
- In the outdoor area to the rear and side of the premises, there were water/sand play tables, bicycles, tricycles, scooters, a basketball hoop, and tyres containing bark / play accessories. There were two planting areas, a plastic playhouse, and a picnic table with bench seating, under a tent. There was a separate fenced area with bark covering which had a large climbing frame. There was a Perspex covered greenhouse for the storage of additional play materials and equipment.

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

- The person in charge advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by visual aids, and adherence to best practice guidelines.
- For children in the Wobbler, Toddler, Junior ECCE, and Junior ECCE pm rooms, the main meals and snacks were supplied by the service.
- For children in the Senior Pre-school room, the morning snacks were supplied by the parents and guardians. These children had a selection of fruit pieces, sandwiches, rice cakes, crackers, cheese, and yogurts offered at their snack times.

On Day 1 of the inspection

In the morning before 9.00hrs, the service offered the children the opportunity to have cereal, and or porridge with milk.

From 10.00hrs to 10.15hrs, the service offered the children toast and a selection of fruit pieces.

From 11.45hrs to 12.10hrs, the service offered the children their main meal of meatballs, gravy, broccoli, carrots, and white rice.

At 15.00hrs, the service offered the children pizza slices (cheese only and cheese and pepperoni) and water to drink.

On Day 2 of the inspection

In the morning before 9.00hrs, the service offered the children the opportunity to have cereal and or porridge with milk.

From 10.00hrs, the service offered the children crackers and fruit pieces.

From 11.45hrs to 12.10hrs, the service offered the children their main meal of sausages, beans, and mashed potatoes.

At 15.00hrs, the service offered the children a selection of yogurts and fruit pieces.

- Clean and safe drinking water at 'low-level drinks' tables were available and accessible to children in each of the playrooms.
- There was a designated fridge, for the safe storage of perishable foodstuffs from children's lunch boxes in the Senior Pre-school room.

Non-Compliance Information

1. On Day 2 of the inspection, it was observed that children were provided with yogurts which had a high sugar content (four spoons per container). In conflict with the Food and Nutrition Guidelines for Pre-school services, the early years inspectors observed all the children in Senior Pre-school room were given two containers of yogurt at their snack time. The guidance advises that snack foods containing sugar can cause tooth decay.
2. The older children aged between 3 to 5 years, did not have the opportunity to 'self-serve' their main meals and snacks. On both days of the inspection, staff members divided out the main meal. Older children who requested more than the 2 meatballs (provided on Day 1 of the inspection) and the 2 sausages (offered on Day 2 of the inspection) were advised that 'there were none left'. Also in the Toddler room, on Day 2 of the inspection, the children were offered 1 sausage and advised by staff that 'there was only extra potatoes and beans, and no more sausages'. The early years inspectors observed on both days of the inspection, following the main meals, that whole meat balls and sausages (the main protein group for each meal) were disposed of in the food waste bin.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 14th of July and the 4th of August 2023, the person in charge advised of the following;

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Our 3-week menu plan has been reviewed and updated. There will be no menu changes without prior authorised approval by the regional manager, who has relevant nutritional training.
2. Going forward staff will sit and interact with the children at their tables while supporting the children to 'self-serve' at their mealtimes. Children will be encouraged to try all foods and to eat an adequate quantity.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of the revised 3-week menu plan was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence of a child 'self-serving' their meal / snack and of children 'self-serving' their main meal was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 22 has been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on 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:

- There was a buzzer access system at the two front door entrances of the pre-school.
- The emergency fire exits were unobstructed.
- The external play area was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- The water was thermostatically controlled to prevent the risk of scalding.
- There were restrictive access devices and window cord blind fasteners, on low level windows, as a safety precaution.

Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- Children were observed washing their hands after toileting and prior to their meals / snacks.
- The staff involved in the serving of food and nappy changing used a disposable apron when nappy changing.
- The children’s barrier creams were clearly individually labelled and stored within the nappy changing areas.

Administration of Medication:

- On the days of inspection, no child received medication(s).
- The service had a policy / sign off system on the application of sunscreen. Parental consents were available for review and obtained for the application of sunscreen.

Safe Sleep:

- There was a designated sleep room with five cots, for children under 2 years of age, sleep provision. There were eight stackable beds and vinyl floor mats available for the older children.
- Younger children were observed sleeping on demand following cues / signs of tiredness.
- There was a safe sleep policy that detailed temperature, lighting, ventilation, and child safety requirements as per the ‘safe sleep for under 2’s best practice guidelines for childcare services policy’.

- Documentation review indicated that sleep records were kept for each child's sleep provision, recording the time a staff member physically checks a child, and the staff member's signature. Additionally, the records included a sleeping child's colour, position, breathing and the temperature of the sleep room, with the opportunity to document any necessary remedial actions taken.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were kept.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. On Day 2 of the inspection, at 14.50hrs, for a 15-minute period, the main entrance door (into the building with the office, Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room) was not secure / had no system of security posing a potential safety risk / access egress concern. The early years inspectors were able to directly enter the premises, at this time. The early years inspectors observed that this entrance door had a thumb lock system that the school age children (using Junior ECCE room for their afterschool programme) were able to open, when placing their school bags in an outdoor storage bunker. At this time, the early years inspectors, alerted the staff regarding the door security and one of the inspectors stayed near the door, to ensure children did not exit unsafely.
2. On both days of the inspection, the playroom temperatures were not maintained between 18°C and 22°C. The following room temperature recordings were taken on both days of the inspection:

On Day 1

at 13.36hrs, the room temperature reading in the Senior Pre-school room, was 24.2°C.

On Day 2

at 11.21hrs, the room temperature reading in the Junior ECCE room, was 23.9°C.

at 11.32hrs, the room temperature reading in the Senior Pre-school room, was 25°C.

It is acknowledged, that on both days of the inspection, when staff were advised by the early years inspectors of the high temperatures, fans and cooling machines were placed in these rooms and there were efforts by the staff to enhance cross ventilation, resulting in safer temperatures. It was also observed that the outdoor weather temperatures, over both days of the inspection, varied from 20°C to 26°C.
3. The step-up ladders used for children to access the nappy changing unit in the storeroom, and the nappy changing mat in the Toddler/ Junior ECCE pm sanitary lobby, were unsuitable.

The children had to access these nappy mats by using a general maintenance 2-step fold up ladder, that had a large gap between the second step and the nappy mat, thereby posing a safety risk to a child. There was no suitable step-ups provided to access the wall mounted nappy changing unit in the Junior ECCE/ Senior Pre-school sanitary area, resulting in a child having to be lifted.

4. On the days of inspection, the door into the kitchen, the laundry / storage area, the office, the staff toilet, and the designated staff area had no system of security and or were left open and thereby accessible to the children. It was observed that in the open staff area, there was a Hoover, sweeping brushes, boxes of children's clothing, containers of paint and boxes of art and craft materials. It was observed on Day 1 of the inspection, at 12.45hrs, two staff members carried a basket of laundry through the ECCE Junior room, while the children were waiting for their dinner. On both days of the inspection, the ECCE Junior room was used as walkway for the staff to access the office and laundry /storage area. There was an alternative entrance to the office and laundry/storage area, that did not require the staff to go through the ECCE Junior room.
5. On Day 2 of the inspection, the early years inspectors observed that all the children were offered whole sausages for their main meal. At this time, the early years inspectors advised the staff of the potential choking hazards and to cut the sausages appropriately. It is acknowledged that the staff member in the Toddler room, did cut the sausages, however, the early years inspectors had to ask for the sausages to be cut further, to prevent the risk of choking. The older children in the Senior Pre-school room and Junior ECCE room were only offered teaspoons and thereby were unable to cut the sausages, as a result, the early years inspectors observed they ate their sausages by hand.
6. On both days of the inspection, there was a warm kettle, a toaster, and a microwave on a worktop, (used by the staff) accessible to the pre-school children, (in the walkway corridor in the main building accessing the outdoor areas) and thereby posing a potential risk of injury to a child.
7. On both days of the inspection, the children had access to trailing leads and flexes, posing a potential trip hazard. For example
in the designated sleep room, there was a trailing cable from the air-cooling machine, and a flex connected to the fan,
in the staff area, there was an extension lead and an electric cable from the fridge,
in the nappy changing storeroom, there was an electric cable from the compact disc / stereo system. This non-compliance was previously observed on the last inspection dated 17th of May 2022.
8. On the windowsill of the accessible staff toilet, there was a cleaning agent stored within reach of a child.

9. In the Junior ECCE pm room, there was a cracked plastic storage box, a broken yellow truck with a sharp edge exposed, and a broken lath of wood in the play kitchen, posing a safety risk.
10. In the Junior ECCE room, one of the four wheels on a portable art trolley, was absent and thereby unstable.
11. There was no evidence of, and staff were not aware of the maximum weight load, for the wall mounted nappy changing unit, in the sanitary area used by the children from the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room. The imprinted manufacturer's instructions were not in English and therefore could not be deciphered.

There were several safety risks in the outdoor play area to the rear and side of the premises. For example

12. There were ten plastic fence panels / dividers that were broken with sharp edges, posing a safety risk.
13. There were rusted chipped saucepans and bowls, and a broken seat from a tricycle with sharp edges, in a play tyre containing bark, posing a safety risk.
14. There was a black cable on the artificial grassed area, posing a tripping hazard.
15. There was a red push car with a broken front/ sharp edge, posing a safety risk.
16. There was a broken rear back bucket connected to a red tricycle, posing a safety risk.
17. The children had access to a perspex greenhouse / storage area, which was cluttered with items including plastic bags, activity gyms, play mats, a feeding chair, bicycles, tricycles, storage baskets, two tins of spray paint, and a tin of house paint, posing a potential safety risk. It is acknowledged, there was a gate at the entrance of the greenhouse, but it was open and unsecure, with the lock broken. The early years inspectors observed a handle brush on the gate, as a temporary method of security, on the afternoon of Day 2 of the inspection.
18. The children had access to the utility storage / sluice area adjacent to the boiler. In this area, there were buckets, mops, and an outdoor sink. On both days of the inspection, the gate into this utility area was not secure and thereby accessible to the children.
19. On top of the boiler, there was a plastic cover/ lid, a white plastic pipe, and a tractor inappropriately stored, posing a safety risk.
20. There was a picnic table with bench seating, under a tent, that was wobbling and unstable, posing a potential safety risk.
21. There was a wheel absent from a sand /water unit, thereby posing a safety risk, as it was unstable.
22. There was a raised mat under the climbing frame, posing a potential trip hazard.

23. The handle grips of three scooters were missing / absent, with rusty handlebars exposed, posing a safety risk.
24. There were four metal potholders with no pots, hanging on the fencing (surrounding the artificial grass area) at a child's height, posing a risk of injury.
25. To the side of the premises there were three large wooden branches / logs on the artificial grass, posing a tripping risk.
26. There was evidence of rubbish including balls, plastic wrappers, a racket handle, and a broken plastic pot at the fencing surrounding the pre-school service, with the potential risk of attracting vermin.
27. On Day 1 of the inspection, there was a rusted microwave and a metal teapot with a sharp edge, on the ground bark surface area, posing a safety risk. It is acknowledged that these items were removed on Day 2 of the inspection.
28. There were sharp edges on the corners of two of the raised planting beds, posing a potential safety risk.
29. The early years inspectors observed from reviewing the outdoor risk assessments presented, that there was no system for cross checking and no indication of any remedial action taken when a risk was identified. The records examined did not identify any of the above risks and were pre-dominantly a tick boxing exercise. The early years inspectors observed that the service had a system for one-to-one supervision, giving the staff the opportunity to raise concerns including safety, however there was no documentation in relation to the follow up actions taken and or the evaluation.

Infection Control:

30. On the morning of Day 1 of the inspection, at 11.25hrs to 11.40hrs, a staff member was observed changing five children's nappies, in the nappy changing area in the storeroom, following each procedure hand washing by the staff member and the child was not adhered to. It was observed that gloves and the apron were not changed, and the staff member's hands were not washed, between each nappy change. The staff member used the same gloves and apron when changing these five children.
Also, on Day 1 of the inspection, in the sanitary area between the Junior and Senior Pre-school room, a staff member did not wash her hands after changing the child's nappy.
On the morning of Day 1 of the inspection, children from the Wobbler and Toddler room, did not wash their hands following outdoor play.
On both days of the inspection, children who were playing outside at the time of being collected by parents / guardians, did not have the opportunity to wash their hands. This non-compliance was previously observed on the last inspection dated 17th of May 2022.

31. On Day 1 of the inspection, in the nappy changing storeroom, the airtight sealable bin for the disposal of used nappies, was inappropriately stored on a worktop over the fridge and beside the sink. It was also observed that the three airtight bins for the disposal of nappies, in the nappy changing areas, were not foot operated to prevent cross infection.
32. In the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room sanitary area and in the Toddler room sanitary area, there was evidence of dust and debris on three of the ceiling mechanical ventilation covers. It was also observed in the sanitary area for Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school rooms, there was evidence of a build-up of dust and flies in a ceiling light fitting.
33. Children's clothing was inappropriately stored in unlidded boxes on an open shelving unit, in the nappy changing storeroom, posing a risk of cross infection. On Day 2 of the inspection, cleaned and newly laundered linen was inappropriately stored on top of a box in the nappy changing storeroom. It was also observed over the two days of inspection, in the nappy changing storeroom, there were blankets, cots sheets, a push pram, children's seating, vinyl floor mats and a highchair inappropriately stored.
34. In the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room sanitary area and in the nappy changing storeroom, there was a blue towel roll placed on a worktop, rather than in the dispenser, to prevent the possibility of cross contamination.
35. Over both days of the inspection, the doors from the lobby area to the children's sanitary areas remained open, posing a potential risk of cross contamination.
36. On Day 1 of the inspection, in the Toddler and Junior ECCE pm room in presses under the sinks, mice droppings were observed and required further investigation and cleaning. It is acknowledged that these presses had a security measure to prevent a child's access.
37. Tabletops and work surfaces were not consistently cleaned in the Senior Pre-school room and Junior ECCE room, with designated cloth towels or disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray.
38. A container of antiseptic cream and burns gels / ointments were inappropriately stored in the two first aid cabinets. Medicines, creams, or ointments should be kept out of reach of children and not be stored in the first aid cabinets, as they may contaminate the dressings / other items and create a risk of infection.
39. On Day 1 of the inspection, a mattress cover in a cot, in the designated sleep room was stained. It is acknowledged that on Day 2 of the inspection, this mattress cover had been removed.
40. On both days of the inspection, laundered linen was observed drying on a clothes drier / airer, in the staff area and outside (just off the rear door accessing the outdoor area) and thereby accessible to the children posing a risk of cross infection.

41. In the Junior ECCE pm room, there were two-foot operated pedalled bins, that were broken, requiring replacement/ repair.
42. In the Toddler room, an adult cloth covered chair was stained, and not readily cleanable.

Safe Sleep:

43. On both days of inspection, the room temperature of the Wobbler and Toddler sleep rooms was not maintained between 16°C to 20°C, while children between the age of 1 and 3 years, were sleeping.

On Day 1 -

at 12.15hrs, a temperature reading of 23.6°C, was recorded while five children were sleeping.

at 12.59hrs, a temperature reading of 22.6°C, was recorded while five children were sleeping.

at 12.22hrs, the room temperature reading in the Toddler room was 21.8°C, while five children were sleeping.

at 13.01hrs, the room temperature reading in the Toddler room was 21.6°C, while five children were sleeping.

On Day 2-

at 12.38hrs, a temperature reading of 23.2°C, was recorded while four children were sleeping in the Wobbler sleep room.

at 12.15hrs, a temperature reading of 22.6°C, was recorded while five children were sleeping in the Toddler room.

It was also observed that the remedial action section, of the sleep record, was left blank even when temperatures were greater than the recommended norm.

It is acknowledged, that on both days of the inspection, when staff were advised by the early years inspectors of the high temperatures, fans and a cooling machine were placed in these rooms and there were efforts by the staff to enhance cross ventilation, resulting in safer temperatures. It was also observed that the outdoor weather temperatures over both days of the inspection, varied from 20°C to 26°C.

On Day 1 of the inspection, the five cots were in one part of an interlinked interconnected room (by an arch walkway) with the nappy changing storeroom. On Day 2 of the inspection, MDF boarding had been erected to close off this arch way. On Day 2 of the inspection, the early years inspectors acknowledged that the cooling machines were used as per manufacturer's instructions and the door was left closed.

44. On Day 2 of inspection, at 13.05hrs, a staff member in the Wobbler room, had pre-populated her signature in the sleep records for the five children that were sleeping in the designated sleep room.

Therefore, her signature did not potentially reflect the actual time that she would physically view the sleeping children.

45. The required 50cm spacing between cots was not adhered to in the Wobbler designated sleep room. There was only 46cm between two of the five cots. It was observed that the sleep policy did not advise of spacing between cots. It was also observed a cot was inappropriately situated beside a radiator. This non-compliance was previously observed on the last inspection dated 17th of May 2022.

Administration of Medication:

46. In conflict with best practice and the service's own policy, one pre-school child had their emergency medication left and stored in their own school bag, daily. The policy advised that 'all medications will be stored safely away from children's reach and according to manufacturer's instructions.
47. The medication records were incomplete, for example there was only the first name of the staff member administering the medication, and there was no name or only the first name of the second staff member (who witnesses, cross checks, safeguards the medication, to prevent medication error).

Fire Safety:

48. Fire drill records presented were incomplete and lacked details. There were two loose sheets presented to the early years' inspectors with the following details -
- 29th of May 2023, two staff, fifteen children,
 - 30th of May 2023, three staff, nineteen children.
- For example
- the comment section of the sheets remained blank,
 - the name of the playroom was not indicated,
 - did not indicate if the children were school age or pre-school children,
 - the time of the fire evacuation drills was not recorded,
 - did not indicate if all children in the service were familiar with the fire drill procedure.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 14th of July and on the 4th and 9th of August 2023, the person in charge advised of the following;

Corrective and Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A safety chain has been placed on this entrance door, out of children's reach. Staff have been made aware of the importance of securing this door and ensuring the chain lock is on when the children enter / exit this area.

2. Air coolers were installed in each room and new room temperature logs were put in place for staff to record the temperatures and document what remedial actions were taken to ensure safe temperatures.
3. A suitable step up/ladder was purchased, and the 2-step fold up ladder was removed.
4. The doors into the kitchen, the laundry / storage area, the office, the staff toilet, and the designated staff area now have a system of security. Cleaning utensils are now stored in the utility room and the vacuum cleaner, sweeping brushes, boxes, paints and art and craft materials were removed.
5. Whole sausages are no longer offered for the children's meals. Staff have been advised regarding the potential choking hazards and to cut certain foods appropriately. The healthy eating policy has been updated.
6. The kettle, toaster, and a microwave on a worktop, have been removed. Staff have been advised of the potential safety risk to children if these items are accessible.
7. The children will no longer have access to trailing leads and flexes. A risk assessment has been implemented in these areas.
8. The cleaning product from the windowsill that was accessible in the staff toilet, was removed to the utility room. All cleaning products are now stored in the utility room and inaccessible to the children.
9. In the Junior ECCE pm room, the cracked plastic storage box, the broken yellow truck with a sharp edge exposed, and the broken lath of wood in the play kitchen was removed. There is a new risk assessment sheet to identify any safety risks within the playrooms.
10. In the Junior ECCE room, the portable art trolley, was removed. There is a new risk assessment sheet to identify any safety risk within the playrooms.
11. The wall mounted nappy changing unit, in the sanitary area used by the children from the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room was removed.
12. The ten plastic fence panels / dividers that were broken with sharp edges have been removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
13. The rusted chipped saucepans and bowls, and the broken seat from a tricycle with sharp edges, in a play tyre containing bark, were removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
14. The black cable on the artificial grassed area was removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
15. The red push car with a broken front/ sharp edge was removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.

16. The broken rear back bucket connected to a red tricycle was removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
17. The children no longer have access to the perspex greenhouse / storage area. The area is now clutter free and the gate at the entrance of the greenhouse, is secure, with a new lock.
18. The children no longer have access to the utility storage / sluice area adjacent to the boiler. There is now a secured lock into this utility storage area. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
19. On top of the boiler, the plastic cover/ lid, a white plastic pipe, and the tractor that were inappropriately stored, have been removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
20. The picnic table with bench seating, under the tent, has been fixed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
21. The wheel that was absent from a sand /water unit was fixed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
22. The raised mat under the climbing frame, was removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
23. The three scooters (with handle grips which were missing / absent, and with rusty handlebars exposed) were removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
24. The four metal potholders with no pots, hanging on the fencing (surrounding the artificial grass area) at a child's height, were removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
25. To the side of the premises, the three large wooden branches / logs on the artificial grass area, are now removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
26. The rubbish including balls, plastic wrappers, a racket handle, and a broken plastic pot at the fencing surrounding the pre-school service, was removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
27. The rusted microwave and a metal teapot with a sharp edge, on the ground bark surface area were removed. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
28. The sharp edges on the corners of two of the raised planting beds have been covered. There is an updated outdoor risk assessment to identify potential safety risks.
29. The outdoor risk assessments, now have a system for cross checking and indicate if any remedial action were taken, when a risk is identified.

Infection Control:

30. Hand washing by the staff members and the children is now adhered to. The gloves and the aprons are now changed, and the staff member's hands are washed, between each nappy change. The staff now use separate gloves and aprons for changing each child. Children now have their hands washed after outdoor play. The infection control policy including hand washing procedures has been updated and staff have received training on same.
31. There are airtight sealable foot operated pedalled bins for the disposal of used nappies, which are appropriately stored. The infection control policy including nappy changing procedures has been updated and staff have received training on same.
32. In the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room sanitary area and in the Toddler room sanitary area, the three ceiling mechanical ventilation covers have been cleaned. There is a designated cleaner employed in the service at weekends.
33. Children's clothing is now appropriately stored in lidded boxes in the nappy changing areas. Cleaned and newly laundered linen is appropriately stored. The cots sheets, a push pram, children's seating, vinyl floor mats and a highchair are now safely stored, to prevent cross infection.
34. In the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room sanitary area and in the nappy changing storeroom, the hand towels are now stored in a dispenser, to prevent the possibility of cross contamination.
35. The doors from the lobby area to the children's sanitary areas now remain closed.
36. In the Toddler and Junior ECCE pm room presses under the sinks, the mice droppings were cleaned and further investigated. There is now a monthly pest control routine.
37. Tabletops and work surfaces are now consistently cleaned in the Senior Pre-school room and Junior ECCE room, with designated cloth towels and or disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray for cleaning.
38. The container of antiseptic cream and burns gels / ointments have been removed from the two first aid cabinets. Medicines, creams, or ointments are now out of reach of children and are now stored in a drawer in the office.
39. The mattress cover that was stained in the designated sleep room was removed and replaced. There is an updated risk assessment to identify potential infection control risks.
40. Laundered linen is no longer dried on a clothes drier / airer, in the staff area and or outside. Laundered linen is only dried in the service tumble drier.
41. In the Junior ECCE pm room, the two-foot operated pedalled bins, were replaced. Staff will risk assess to ensure equipment is in working order.

42. In the Toddler room, the adult cloth covered chair that was stained, was removed, and replaced.

Safe Sleep:

43. The room temperature of the Wobbler and Toddler sleep rooms are now maintained between 16°C to 20°C, while children are sleeping. The remedial action section, of the sleep record, is now completed when temperatures are greater than the recommended norm. Fans and a cooling machine have been placed in the sleep and playrooms to enhance cross ventilation, resulting in safer temperatures.

44. Staff are now aware not to have pre-populated signatures in the sleep records for children that are sleeping. The sleep policy has been updated.

45. The required 50cm spacing between cots is now adhered to in the Wobbler designated sleep room. The sleep policy now advises of spacing between cots. Cots are not situated beside a radiator.

Administration of Medication:

46. Emergency medication is no longer stored in a child's own school bag and is now stored in a lidded box that is inaccessible to the children. The service has a risk assessment system in place for the storage of medication.

47. The medication records are now complete with the full name of the staff member administering the medication, and the full name of the second staff member. Staff have had training regarding recording medication administered.

Fire Safety:

48. Fire drill records are now complete and detailed. The assistant manager is now responsible to checking fire drills records are accurately documented.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety

1. Photographic evidence of the newly fitted chain lock security system on the entrance door was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence of the air-cooling machines for the sleep room and playrooms was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
3. Evidence was submitted for the order acknowledgement of the step-up ladders used for children to access the nappy changing mat in the Toddler/ Junior ECCE pm sanitary lobby.
4. Photographic evidence of the secure doors into the kitchen, the laundry / storage area, the office, the staff toilet, and the designated staff area, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

5. Photographic evidence of the 3-week menu plan (with no sausages for meals/ snacks) was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
6. Photographic evidence of the newly partitioned staff room which stored the kettle microwave and toaster was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
7. Photographic evidence of inaccessible and secure leads/ flexes was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
8. Photographic evidence of the staff toilet showing no storage of cleaning agents was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
9. Photographic evidence of the Junior ECCE pm room, showing that the cracked plastic storage box, the broken yellow truck with a sharp edge exposed, and the broken lath of wood in the play kitchen had been removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Additionally, the indoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
10. Photographic evidence of the Junior ECCE room, showing that the portable art trolley was removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
11. Photographic evidence that the wall mounted nappy changing unit, in the sanitary area used by the children from the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room was removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
12. Photographic evidence that the ten plastic fence panels / dividers that were broken with sharp edges, posing a safety risk were removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
13. Photographic evidence that the rusted chipped saucepans and bowls, and the broken seat from a tricycle with sharp edges, in a play tyre containing bark, was now removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
14. Photographic evidence that the black cable on the artificial grassed area, was now removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
15. Photographic evidence that the red push car that was broken, was removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
16. Photographic evidence that the broken rear back bucket connected to a red tricycle, was now removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
17. Photographic evidence of the secured and uncluttered perspex greenhouse / storage area, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

18. Photographic evidence of the secured utility storage / sluice area adjacent to the boiler was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
19. Photographic evidence that the plastic cover/ lid, a white plastic pipe, and the toy tractor had been removed from the boiler top was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
20. Photographic evidence that the picnic table with bench seating, under the tent, was now fixed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
21. Photographic evidence of the fixed sand /water unit was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
22. Photographic evidence of the raised mat under the climbing frame, was now removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
23. Photographic evidence that the three scooters (with handle grips which were missing / absent, and with rusty handlebars exposed) were removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
24. Photographic evidence that the four metal potholders with no pots, hanging on the fencing (surrounding the artificial grass area) at a child's height, were removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
25. Photographic evidence that the three large wooden branches / logs on the artificial grass area, that were to the side of the premises which are now removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
26. Photographic evidence that the rubbish including balls, plastic wrappers, a racket handle, and a broken plastic pot at the fencing surrounding the pre-school service, that these items were removed was

submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

27. Photographic evidence that the rusted microwave and a metal teapot with a sharp edge, on the ground bark surface area were removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

28. Photographic evidence that the sharp edges on the corners of two of the raised planting beds which are now covered was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

29. Evidence of the outdoor risk assessments, showing a system for cross checking and indicating if any remedial action were taken, when a risk is identified was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the updated outdoor risk assessment checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Infection Control:

30. The hand washing policy for the hand washing procedures for staff and children was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

31. Photographic evidence of airtight bins for the disposal of nappies, in the nappy changing areas, that were foot operated to prevent cross infection and of the updated nappy changing policy was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

32. Photographic evidence that the three-ceiling mechanical ventilation covers that were cleaned in the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room sanitary area and in the Toddler room sanitary area was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Additionally, evidence that in the sanitary area for Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school rooms, the ceiling light fittings were cleaned, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

33. Photographic evidence that the children's clothing was appropriately stored in lidded boxes, in the nappy changing areas were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Evidence that the cleaned and newly laundered linen was appropriately stored. The service showed that the blankets, cots sheets, a push pram, children's seating, vinyl floor mats and a highchair were now appropriately stored.

34. Photographic evidence that in the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room sanitary area and in the nappy changing storeroom, the disposable hand towels are now stored in dispensers, to prevent the possibility of cross contamination, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

35. Photographic evidence that the doors from the lobby area to the children's sanitary areas remained closed and evidence of signage on the doors advising staff to keep the doors closed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
36. Documentary evidence of a pest control checklist for the premises was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the cleaned presses was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
37. Photographic evidence of designated cloth towels for cleaning tabletops was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
38. Photographic evidence of the antiseptic cream and burns gels / ointments that are now appropriately stored and kept in a drawer in the office and thereby out of reach of children, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
39. Photographic evidence that the mattress cover had been removed and replaced was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
40. Photographic evidence that the laundered linen is relocated and now inaccessible to the pre-school children was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
41. Photographic evidence of the two new foot operated lidded pedalled bins, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
42. Photographic evidence of a new adult wooden chair in the Toddler room, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Safe Sleep:

43. Photographic evidence of the cooling machines and documentation to support any remedial action taken was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
44. Photographic evidence of the new sleep resting log template, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
45. Photographic evidence of the required 50cm spacing between cots in the Wobbler designated sleep room was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. The updated sleep policy advising of spacing between cots and situated away from any radiator was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Administration of Medication:

46. Photographic evidence of a storage press for children's emergency medications was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
47. Photographic evidence of the completed medication records with full names of the staff member administering the medication, and the full name of the second staff member was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Fire Safety:

48. Photographic evidence of completed and detailed fire drill records were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on 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)
The service provided evidence that there were persons trained in first aid for children always available to the children attending the pre-school service. Five staff had current training in first aid for children.
- (2)(a)
There was a wall mounted first aid cabinet in each building which were safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position.
- (b)
The service demonstrated that the first aid cabinets were 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 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)

Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills with the last documented preschool fire drill dates of the 29th and 30th of May 2023.

(b)

A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the annual servicing of the firefighting equipment and for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 10th of May 2023.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at the entrances to the pre-school for both buildings.

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 was for a full day care service, catering for a maximum number of 65 pre-school children and 24 school aged children, with an expiry date for the 27th of March 2024 and included the following -

- public liability insurance;
- insurance against fire and theft;
- buildings insurance;
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated, and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained, and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(a)

From a visual inspection the premises were of sound and stable structure.

The service's exterior walls, roof and foundation appeared to be structurally sound, weather/water-tight, to ensure protection from the weather elements.

The interior floors, walls and ceilings appeared to be well finished, with no evidence of mould.

Drainage and septic tanks were inaccessible to children.

(b)

Exits were clearly identified and visible during service hours.

Electrical sockets were safe.

Floor coverings were secure and non-slip.

(c)

There was natural lighting from the windows in the outer walls, in each playroom.

The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.

(d)

The service had a cleaning schedule.

(e)

In the main building there was a designated staff toilet with a wash hand basin.

There were four toilets and four wash hand basins between the Junior ECCE room and the Senior Pre-school room.

There was a toilet and wash hand basin in the main building for the children using the Junior ECCE pm room.

Non-Compliance Information

(d)

1. The MDF partition required painting. The early years inspectors observed that on Day 1 of the inspection, the storeroom was inappropriately being used as a nappy changing area and there was an open arch way between this storeroom and the designated Wobbler sleep room. On Day 2 of the inspection, an MDF partition was placed on the arch way between the nappy changing storeroom and the sleep room resulting in this partition requiring painting.

It is acknowledged that following the last inspection, on the 17th of May 2022, the person in charge advised the early years inspectors, that the designated sleep room had been re-located to what was previously the Wobbler / Toddler room.

2. There were holes in the walls of the sanitary lobby areas that required filling/painting. It is acknowledged that on the Day 1 of inspection, the first aid cabinets were unsuitably located in the sanitary area lobbies of each building, and these were relocated on Day 2 of the inspection, to the hallways, resulting in the holes.

(e)

3. In conflict with best practice, there was no designated wash hand basin for nappy changing of the children in nappies from the Toddler room. There was one wash hand basin in the lobby area beside the nappy changing worktop, but this was for use by the children from the Toddler and Junior ECCE pm room, using the toilet and or after outdoor / messy play.

The designated wash hand basin for use by the staff and children involved in nappy changing procedures was not identifiable / labelled / designated in the nappy changing area for the Junior ECCE room and Senior Pre-school room.

4. There was an insufficient number of adult toilets / designated wash hand basins. The regulation requires that one toilet and one wash hand basin is provided for every eight staff. It is acknowledged that the inspectors only noted this non-compliance following the inspection and verbally advised the registered provider.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 14th of July and 14th of August, the registered provider and the person in charge advised of the following;

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The nappy changing table has been removed from this storeroom. The MDF partition was painted.
2. The holes have been filled and painted. Maintenance will be done on a weekly basis. The cleaning schedule has been updated.
3. We now have a designated nappy changing area with a designated wash hand basin.
4. We will submit a plan and construct a new adult sanitary area by the end of August 2023.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of the painted MDF partition was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence that the holes in the walls of the sanitary lobby areas had been filled/painted was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
3. Photographic evidence of a designated wash hand basin for nappy changing, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
4. No evidence was submitted, however the registered provider verbally advised on the 14th of August 2023 that a plan and construction work would be completed by the end of August 2023.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances 1. 2. & 3. have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

The non-compliance point 4. relating to the adult sanitary area is proposed to be addressed by the end of August 2023.