

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018CE502
Name of Service:	Sunny Lane Crèche Westbury
Address of Service:	Childcare Services, Westbury Centre, Corbally, Co. Clare
Eircode:	V94 WK2P
Name of Registered Provider:	Natalie Quane
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
Date of Inspection Day 1:	14/02/2024
Date of Inspection Day 2:	15/02/2024

No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	64	PM	55
No of pre-school children Day 2:	AM	49	PM	49

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	A.McCarthy
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

Sunny Lane Crèche Westbury was established in 2018, as a purpose-built, privately owned childcare facility located in Westbury, Corbally, County Clare. The service provides full day, part-time and a sessional day care service, Monday to Friday from 07:45 to 17:30. The two-storey building accommodates seven care rooms, three sleep rooms, a kitchen, sanitary facilities and four outdoor play areas leading from the care rooms.

During the inspection, seven care rooms were in use. On the ground floor there are five care rooms and on the first level there are two care rooms these included: the Baby room (age range: one to two years), the Wobbler room (age range: one to two years), Toddler room One (age range: two to three years), Toddler room Two (age range: two to three years), the Sessional Preschool room (age range: three to five years), Junior Preschool room (age range: three to four years) and Senior Preschool room (age range: four to five years).

Staffing

Twenty adults are employed in the service. Both the registered provider and the assistant manager provided an administrative role and relief cover when required. On the 14th of February 2024 fifteen adults cared for sixty-four children in the morning and twelve adults cared for fifty-five children in the afternoon. On the 15th of February 2024 twelve adults cared for forty-nine children in the morning and eleven adults cared for forty-nine children in the afternoon. The staff had evidence on file of engagement in continuous professional development.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 16, 19(1)(a), 23, 24, and 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report. 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.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, the assistant manager 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, and

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The manager was the designated person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The manager and the deputy were available on both days of inspection.

(2)

Twenty files were available and reviewed by the inspector. The findings included the following:

(a)

Thirty written and verified past employer references were available.

- (b)
Ten written and verified reference were obtained from a source other than a past employer.
- (c)
Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the twenty adults working in the service.
- (d)
International police vetting was available for five adults who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months.
- (4)
The adults working directly with the children held qualification ranging from level 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

Compliance Information

- (1)
On both days of inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (2)

On the 14th of February 2024 fifteen adults supervised sixty-four children in the morning and twelve adults cared for fifty-five children in the afternoon. On the 15th of February 2024 twelve adults cared for forty-nine children in the morning and eleven adults cared for forty-nine children in the afternoon.

(8)(a)

The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available in the service at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

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

Compliance Information

(1)(g)

The registered provider maintained up to date policies, procedures and statements in accordance with Regulation 10.

(h)

The children's arrival and departure times in each care room were recorded in the attendance record book.

(i)

A staff roster was available and reviewed by the inspector. The roster included the adults rostered hours and absences.

(j)

A sample of ten administration of medication records were reviewed by the inspector. The records reviewed included a parental signature before and after the medication was administered. The staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the administration of medication policy.

(k)

A sample of the accident, injury and incident records were reviewed by the inspector. The records reviewed detailed a signed parental signatures on each of the records reviewed.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The inspector observed the children's learning, development, and well-being to be supported by the members of staff as follows:

Basic Needs of Children:

The staff in each room treated the children with positive regard and interacted with the children in a kind and caring manner. This was observed by the staff conversing with the children in soft gentle tones of voice at their level, in a respectful manner. The staff used positive behavioural strategies during all interactions with children, the children were continuously offered praise and encouragement. The infant's nappies were changed on an individual needs basis and the staff carried out these procedures in a sensitive manner. The staff supported the children to be independent during feeding, toileting, completing tasks and whilst caring for their belongings. The children's sleep needs were responded to appropriately and children who did not wish to sleep were provided with an alternative room to play and learn in. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care and nasal care appropriate to their age and level of development.

Physical and Material Environment:

The indoor and outdoor environments offered an enriching and challenging experience for the children in attendance. The children transitioned freely under supervision from the indoor to the outdoor environment

periodically during the inspection. The seven care rooms and the adjacent outdoor areas were bright and appropriately resourced for the age range and stage of development of the children.

Indoor Environment:

The Baby and Wobbler room offered opportunities for the children to engage crawling, bouncing, climbing and standing in the spacious, soft play activities areas. The colourful rooms, with inviting illustrations on the walls, provided a space with a range of engaging activities, learning materials and equipment and surfaces for the infants to explore. The infants accessed the low-level shelving which accommodated a large range of toys and play and learning equipment and relaxation areas. The infant's individual routine was displayed on a notice board. The infants transitioned periodically from the indoor to the outdoor area and engaged in sensory, imaginative and gross motor play based activities.

The three pre-school rooms were engaged in a range of activities. The activities included constructive, sensory, imaginative play and storytelling time. Speech and language skills were developed through song, rhymes and conversations. Areas of interest included the home and shop corner, a dress up area, an area with soft furnishings, a large range of reading materials used by the children to rest and relax, two sensory tuff tables, shelving units with a wide range of constructive, creative, imaginative equipment.

The junior preschool, sessional preschool and senior preschool rooms were colourful and spacious and individually designed around the needs of the children. Numerical and alphabetical learning aids as well as the children's creative works were displayed on the walls of the pre-school rooms. Photographic illustrations demonstrating monthly completed learning and play based activities, family and birthday displays. Each room was laid out with defined interest areas and a large range of supporting materials and equipment. All resources were accessible to the children on low level units. Each of the care rooms displayed a "Wow" section on the wall demonstrating the children's individual creative artwork. The children transitioned to the dining room for mealtimes where they conversed amicably in the relaxed environment. Healthy nutritious food was provided by the service daily. Water and milk were readily available and appropriate crockery were provided to the children during mealtimes.

Outdoor Environment:

The outdoor play area is located to the front and side of the building. This space offers a large area for the children to access from their individual rooms. The area consisted of wet pour, bark and grass. The infants and children freely moved and engaged in a range of sensory, creative, physical, imaginative, and constructive play. These play areas provide a large range of designated areas of interest with accompanying play and learning equipment and materials. These included a large wooden fire engine, pretend playhouses, climbing frames, activity centres with a playhouse, swings and slides, tuff tables with various sensory materials, cars, rocking toys and scooters. The children were provided with all-weather waterproof clothing and footwear. The outdoor area was secured by a fence, concrete wall and gated access.

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

A key person approach was observed in each care room, the staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the children's preferences, interests, and individual capabilities. The rooms accommodated visual cards and routine displays demonstrating photographic illustrations to support and include all children in the programme of care. The children were notified in advance of any transitions and consulted in delivery of the programme of care and learning. The staff in each room worked effectively to facilitate the programme of care and learning cohesively. The staff communicated informally with parents/guardians during drop off and collection periods from the service. The parents/guardians were informed of the children's achievements and care needs during collection times. Individual learning journals and observations were available for each child capturing the children's developmental progression, learning and play based activities and achievements. These journals are shared with parents periodically and given to each child prior to commencing school.

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:

- A ked coded, bell operated system was in place at the entrance door to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor areas were secured with fencing and gates to protect the children within, and the children were supervised at all times during the inspection.
- Medication and cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.
- The blind cords were appropriately secured throughout the service.

Infection Control:

- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins. Child friendly handwashing posters were located above the wash handbasins as prompters to promote good handwashing practices.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, toileting and before mealtime.
- The nappy changing procedures were completed in accordance with the service's infection control procedure. A procedure was displayed in the nappy changing facilities.
- The children's perishable food items and infant formula were stored correctly in fridges in the kitchen and care rooms.
- An appropriate method was available to sterilise the infant's soothers. The soothers were stored in individually labelled containers.
- The children were provided with individual standard sized cots and beds. Labelled containers are available for storing bedlinen and personal care items.

Administration of Medication:

- The manager and staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the service's medication administration policy.
- A book is in place for recording for administering prescription and non-prescription medication.
- An individual care plan was available for children who require emergency medications.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep room one and two accommodated standard sized cots for the babies to sleep.
- Sleep room three accommodated low-level beds and mattresses for children to sleep. In the care rooms soft furnishings were provided for rest and relaxation.
- The sleep room and care room temperatures were maintained between 16-20 degrees Celsius in the sleep rooms on both days of inspection. A thermometer was available for staff to measure and monitor the room temperatures.
- Staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the service's safe sleep policy. The children's sleep observations were recorded by staff every ten minutes. These observations included the children's colour, position and breathing.

Fire Safety:

- The staff had records of up-to-date fire safety training.
- The fire exit routes and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- The fire exits routes and fire assembly points were readily identified with signage.
- The service demonstrated evidence of completing monthly fire drills to prepare the service to respond in the event of fire.

Outing:

- An outing was not conducted on the day of inspection. An outings policy was available to inform practice.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

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

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

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

(iii) an employee, or

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

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

Compliance Information

(1)

The children in attendance were checked in and out of the service on both days of inspection.

(3) (a)(b)

The registered provider ensured that all visitors to the service were recorded in a book at the entrance to the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-

(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place in January 2024.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place respectively in September 2023 and February 2023.

(4)

A fire action notice was available demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.