

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2018GY510

Name of Service: Wizkidz

Address of Service: Campus 2 Trinity Primary School, Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

Eircode: H54Y034

Name of Registered Provider: Sarah Grogan

Service type: Part Time, Drop-In

Date of Inspection: 30/05/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

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

Conditions if applicable Not applicable

Description of service

This pre-school service was established in 2018 and operated from a building located on the grounds of campus 2 of Mercy National School in Tuam, Co Galway. It offers a and a sessional day care service, Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30 and a part time service to 13.30pm. It can cater for children aged 2 years to 6 years old. The service consisted of 2 playrooms and both adult and children's sanitary areas. The service also has access to an outdoor play area at the rear of the building and a grassed area at the front of the service.

Staffing

There were 6 staff working in the service on the day of inspection which included the registered provider.

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 The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11 and 19 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 19. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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 service manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises during the inspection.

(2)(a) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(b) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than the previous last employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 3 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 7 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore 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 the day of inspection there was 5 adults working directly with 10 pre-school children. At all times during the period of Inspection, the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were on the premises at all times during the daily operation hours of 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

BASIC NEEDS:

- Children were independent with their toileting needs. However, on occasion some children needed a reminder from staff and staff were available to assist when required.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunchtime and after using the toilet and after outdoor playtime.
- Lunchtime was observed to be a social event, the children ate their snacks in the indoor play area on low level tables and chairs. The staff sat with the children speaking and interacting in a positive manner with the children.
- Children got the opportunity to move freely in the outdoor play area during the period of the inspection. The children got an opportunity to play in the outdoor area each day.
- The children were observed to getting changed into their outdoor wet gear and wellingtons during the inspection. The staff encouraged independence and offer help when required.
- The staff were observed to use positive approaches and praise when for speaking to the children.

Supporting relationships :

- The atmosphere between the children and the adults was calm and unhurried throughout the inspection.
- Staff provided parents with the opportunity to share information about the children's experiences, a daily record was sent home each day for all the children, and this was done via an online software application. The parent had instant access to information in relation to the activities of the children, such as what they ate and when they slept or rested.
- The service provided opportunities for parents and guardians to be involved with the service activities, the registered provider had invited the parents of the children which range from different nationalities to visit the service and bring food and share songs and stories from their different cultures

Non-Compliance Information

Physical and Material Environment

1. While it is acknowledged that defined interest areas were provided, they did not allow access to enough variety of materials and equipment e.g. the play kitchen was poorly stocked with play accessories and the tuff tables were void of resources for the children to play with.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has engaged with a quality and development service to help develop perspective on how to lay out the playrooms. We have conducted a toy and material audit prior to reopening in September 2024.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of a revised layout in the playroom.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance outlined above.