

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019CC001		
Name of Service:	Sandy Walk		
Address of Service:	Broomfield, Midleton, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P25T6H3		
Name of Registered Provider:	Emma Goldspring		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	26/05/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM n/a
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440		
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms. M O'Reilly		
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
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Description of service

Sandy Walk first opened in 2019 and is a registered community based early years sessional service that caters for children from aged two to six years and attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE).

Opening hours are from 9am to 12 pm each day Monday to Friday.

Sandy Walk operates from a detached single storey building located on the entrance of a private residential estate on the outskirts of Midleton town. The facility consists of one classroom with a kitchenette area, adequate children and adult toilet facilities and a storage room. The children have access to an outdoor play area located beside the facility.

Staffing

The service had two adults who work directly with the children at all times while the service is in operation. The service had a relief staff member from the sister service on day of inspection as the person in charge was on leave. The registered provider is not service based. The childcare manager is based in the sister childcare service also located in Midleton. All staff hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the deputy, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

(3) Where a registered provider has been unable for good and proper reason to notify the Agency within the time specified in paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be, of a change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2), the registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing of the change as soon as possible thereafter.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) The registered provider had not informed the Agency in writing that the service was operating outside of the service current registration status. On inspection, it was found.

- that the service had a new person in charge.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

In the written response the childcare manager has stated the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)

(3) The early years registration office has been informed of the new named person in charge. Going forward management will inform the registration office of any changes to the current registration status of the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the change in circumstances form was submitted tom the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 8 (1) (3) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

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

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

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

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was a person in charge and a person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The deputy and relief staff member were present when the inspector arrived on the premises on the day of the inspection and remained for the duration of the inspection. The person in charge was on leave on day of inspection.
- (2)
- The person in charge on day of inspection confirmed that three new adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on the 8th June 2021, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.
- (a) There were four references with a corresponding written validation on file from past employers in respect of the three adults.

(b) There were two references with a corresponding written validation on file from a source other than a previous employer.

(c) A completed Garda vetting disclosure was received for each of the three adults.

(d) Two police clearance records were on file on the adult who had worked outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)
The three adults that worked directly with the children held a major award ranging from a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 certificate to a level 7 degree in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times.

(3) On the day of the inspection: the following adult child ratios was observed

There were 12 children in attendance aged 3 years plus with 2 adults in attendance.

During the period of inspection, the minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations

(8)(c)

Not applicable as the service was not operating single-handedly.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) The 13 children's registration forms on file. were reviewed and found to contain most of the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (a) to (g) and (i)

Non Compliance Information

(1)

(h) There were no immunisation details on two of the children's registration forms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

In the written response the childcare manager has stated the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)
(h) The immunisation status of the two children have now been updated and are recorded in the respective children's registration forms. From now on management will ensure that immunisation details for all children will be in place prior to the children starting in the service. For parents who choose not to vaccinate their children this information will be recorded on the child registration forms.

Supporting documentation submitted

- The statement from the childcare manager is accepted as evidence

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 15 (1) (3) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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:

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

Non Compliance Information

(1)
(i) There was no daily staff roster available on file at time of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

In the written response the childcare manager has stated the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(i) There was no staff rota on display, this was because it is an ECCE only service that is open for 3 hours a day with 2 staff members and they don't have a tea break or a lunch break. Following the inspection, management now have a weekly staff roster that is on display and maintained on file

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the staff roster was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate and deemed satisfactory

Summary Comment

Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 16 (1) (i) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

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

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

Compliance Information

Basic Needs

- Child led play was supported by staff during the course of the inspection while spent time playing indoors and outdoors.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way and the adults were observed to support the children and handle any minor behavioural issues promptly. The adults supported children to be sociable and respectful towards each other and spoke and listened to them in a calm and sensitive manner.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Independent use of the toilet was encouraged. The staff members were observed to supervise and assist where required each of the children when hand washing and hand drying, and the children were supported and encouraged prior to eating, post toileting and following outdoor play.
- Children had sufficient space to move about freely indoors and outdoors.
- The staff members were observed speaking with the children during snack time and using it as an opportunity to enhance social interaction with the children which promoted a relaxed atmosphere.

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

- On day of inspection the food and drink provided by the parents/guardians for the mid-morning snack were observed to be healthy and nutritious with age-appropriate size quantities of food for example freshly cut fruit such as strawberries and sandwiches and yogurts with water to drink .
- The perishable foods provided by parents for the children’s mid-morning snack were observed to be refrigerated.
- The children attending had access to their labelled water bottles to counter thirst and had free access to their drinking water bottles while playing indoors and outdoors.

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:

- Access to the main entrance door was adequately secured that prevented unauthorised access by an unauthorised person or exit by a child.
- Emergency fire exit doors were unobstructed
- The play materials, resources and equipment reviewed were in a satisfactory condition.
- The kitchenette area was adequately cornered off to ensure that children had no access to this area while the service was in operation.

Non Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The storeroom door was not adequately secured at time of inspection. The storeroom is located directly beside the playroom and cleaning equipment was stored there. To reduce the potential safety risk to children having access to the storeroom, the door should be adequately secured at all times while the service is in operation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In the written response the childcare manager has stated the following:

General Safety:

- A bolt lock at adult height was fitted to the storeroom door. Staff will ensure the door into the storeroom is adequately secured at all times while the service is in operation

Supporting documentation submitted

- Photographic evidence of the new bolt on the storeroom door was forwarded to the early years inspector and deemed satisfactory.

Summary Comment

- Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirement of Regulation 23 General Safety of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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) Three staff members held a certified, First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificate.

(2)

(a) There was a sufficiently stocked first aid box available in the service, which was safely stored out of reach of children.

(b) At all times when the service was in operation, first aid supplies were accessible to the adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 26/04/23.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment was last serviced on the July 2022 and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced on the 10/03/23.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had certification to confirm insurance cover for a total of 22 children.
Insurance cover expires on the 27/03/2024