

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019DR002
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Name of Service:	Nurture Childcare Limited / Once Upon A Time
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Address of Service:	Lidl Neighbourhood Centre, Corbawn Lane, Shankill, Shankill, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18WY28
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Name of Registered Provider:	AnneMarie McCormack
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	24/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	61	PM	61
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate-Tusla Child and Family Agency Loughlinstown Health Centre Loughlinstown Drive County Dublin A96P3Y6
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill and Sarah Quigley
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

Authority to Inspect

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

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

This private childcare facility is one of a multiple of services operated by the registered provider in the Dublin region. The service is registered to provide a full day care for pre-school children aged from 1-6 years and operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 07:30 -18:30. The service is located in a purpose-built premises on the grounds of a business park in Shankill south county Dublin. Care is delivered across four care rooms named Junior Wobbler (All 1 year), Senior Wobbler (All 2years), Pre-Montessori (2-3years) and Montessori (3-5 years). A separate sleep room is provided. There is an outdoor play area provided on the premises.

Staffing

Fifteen staff are employed in the service including a domestic worker. On the 24 of February 2025 ten staff were working directly with the children. The designated person in charge and deputy manager provided additional support to staff as required. A student was present on work placement. The area manager and the operations manager arrived after the inspection commenced and were present for the feedback meeting. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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 may also focus on other areas as required.

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9(1)(a), (b), (2)(a) - (d), (3) and (4) Management and recruitment

Regulation 11(1), (2) and (8)(a) Staffing levels

Regulation 19 (1)(a) and (b) Health welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, area manager, operations manager, 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,
- (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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that five adults commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 27 May 2024. The inspection included a review of documentation in respect of these adults and documents for one student. The regulatory requirements were met as follows:

(a) Two written validated references were available from a past employer for six adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the six adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was required for five adults and was available for these adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that five adults who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. Evidence was available to show the sixth adult had completed their QQI level 5 award in Early Childhood Care and Education and was awaiting the certificate.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were sixty-one children attending the service being supervised by ten adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times as evidenced by the staff roster provided.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

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

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

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The inspectors observed appropriate and suitable care practices within the service. Staff were observed to be kind and respectful in their interactions with children throughout the inspection. Staff prepared activities and children were given the choice to take part or not. Play was child led and staff were observed supporting children in their play. Children moved freely within their care rooms and were observed to play independently and with their peers in the designated areas of interest provided.

Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly. At lunchtime children were served pasta with tomato sauce. After, children were offered crackers with cream cheese and fruit. Staff sat with children during this time and engaged in conversation. Additional portions of food were available and offered to children. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and offered when children were eating. The staff supported the children to manage their personal care. They provided the children with bibs to protect their clothes from becoming soiled or wet when eating. The children's nappies were changed routinely and in between when required. Staff used these opportunities for warm one-to-one interactions. Staff described how they record information about each child's day using an online application detailing information about sleep, diet, nappy changes and activities.

There was a designated sleep time and staff reported children are placed to sleep when they displayed signs of tiredness. The children were made comfortable for sleep with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing and providing soothers to those who used them. Infants in the Junior wobbler room were placed to sleep in the cot room. Staff were observed soothing children to sleep by stroking their backs and speaking reassuringly to them. Low level bed were provided in the Senior Wobbler room for children to sleep and staff remained with the children at this time.

Children from the Senior, Pre-Montessori and Montessori rooms were observed in the outdoor area. Staff supported children to dress appropriately with coats and hats. The outdoor play area was safely secure and had an artificial grass surface. Children had access to a variety of play equipment and additionally staff were observed playing games with the children.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Medicines, and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- All blind cords were secured.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and a record of cleaning was available. Staff were observed cleaning tables and floors after meals.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children were supervised washing their hands after outdoor play and prior to eating.
- Staff followed the nappy changing policy when changing children's nappies.
- A system was in place for the effective sterilisation of mouthed toys.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly.

Administration of Medication:

- A sample of medication forms were reviewed. The forms were completed correctly by staff and signed by parents.
- A care plan was available for a child with a specific medical condition and staff demonstrated they were familiar with the plan and required care.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines. The temperature of the cot room was maintained between 16-20 degrees Celsius.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.