

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier	TU2020LK005
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Name of Service:	Hope Childcare
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Address of Service:	Rathwood, Murroe, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 Y6T8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sherene Powell
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	18/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	23
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne and J Ryan
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

There are two buildings on the premises, Wing A is the crèche facility and Wing B is a two-storey building providing sessional and full day care to the older children.

The crèche facility is a single storey premises that has 2 playrooms in operation, the Toddlers and the Baby rooms, 2 sleep rooms, sanitary facilities for the children and adults, an office and a kitchen area.

The two-storey premises have 2 playrooms, playroom 1 located downstairs and playroom 2 upstairs to facilitate the older children attending for the sessional and full day care. Each playroom has its own sanitary facilities for the children.

The service has a number of outdoor spaces with a variety of surfaces such as grass, tarmac, and all-weather areas.

Staffing

There are 8 staff employed to work in the service. The regional manager works 1 to 2 days per week in the service.

All the staff hold a qualification in childcare.

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 the child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 20,21, 23 ,25. 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. 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, 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider had not informed the Early Years Inspectorate of a change in the person in charge in the service.

The name of the person in charge as recorded on the register of services was not the person in charge on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A change of circumstance was sent to Tusla on the 22nd of May 2023. It was completed and approved on the 6th of June 2023.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the confirmation email submitted to the Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The action as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliance identified under Regulation 8 (1) has been adequately addressed.

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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(7) The new staff stated that they were appropriately supervised and had received training on the services policies and procedures and service statement. There were documented records available on the staff files with these details.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider had ensured that there were an adequate number of staff working with the children.

The adult child ratios was correct on the day of the inspection.

(2) There were 5 staff working directly with 28 preschool children in the morning and 5 staff working with 23 preschool children in the afternoon.

The person in charge was available to cover meals breaks and other additional activities identified by the staff working in the playrooms.

An additional staff was available to work with the school aged children from 15:30 to 18:00 pm each day.

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)

Basic Needs:

The basic and individual care needs of the children was supported and encouraged.

Nutritious meals and snacks were served at regular times but with flexibility. The crockery ,cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable and appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development. The staff were observed sitting with the children during mealtimes encouraging and supporting the children to feed themselves independently ,according to their age and stage of development. Children had access to their drinks in the rooms, which were stored within easy reach of all children.

Children had opportunities to be outside as often as possible . Gross motor play was facilitated outdoors on the play equipment and climbing frames in the garden and on the ride on toys in the all-weather surface. Lots of opportunities for children to challenge their own capabilities within safe limits were available.

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, and

Compliance Information

(b) The sleep and rest facilities and equipment provided by the service were suitable for the ages, development stages and individual needs of the children using the service. The sleep rooms and rest rooms were quiet during sleep and rest times.

There were 2 sleep rooms in operation with a total of 8 cots available to the children under 2 years of age. Low sleep beds were in place in the Toddlers playroom for the older children who required a sleep. Individual bed linen (sheets and cellular blankets) were provided for each child. The staff were observed checking the children individually and recording each physical check on the service platform system.

Appropriate soft seating was added to each playroom. There were two-seater couches, floor mats and circular cushions for the children to rest and have some quiet time on their own or with the staff.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

Additional age and developmentally appropriate play equipment and materials were added indoors and outdoors for the children throughout the day.

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

Infection Control:

There was evidence of the policy on infection control being implemented. The staff had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the policy on infection control.

The staff had received additional training on the policy on nappy changing and handwashing. The staff and children were observed washing their hand at the appropriate times throughout the day.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The hot water temperatures at the wash hand basins in the Baby nappy changing area and their playroom were too hot. The water temperatures at the wash basins was recorded at 63°C. This posed an immediate risk of scalding.

This was brought to the attention of the person in charge who addressed the issue immediately.

The thermostat was turned down and the issue of hot water was rectified on inspection. The water temperature was reduced to 36°C. Water must be thermostatically controlled to a maximum temperature of 43 °C for children's use.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The water temperature is checked twice daily to ensure it is always correct.

The thermometer has been calibrated to ensure correct temperatures are being taken.

The water temperature at the wash hand basins are checked in all rooms twice a day.

Thermometers will be calibrated once every 6 months.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Temperature and calibration records were submitted with the CAPA.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 safety has been adequately addressed. This will be assessed at 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

(2)(a) There were suitably equipped first aid boxes safely stored and easily accessible in the service.

(b) The first aid boxes were available at all times if required for a child

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no staff available to the children with First Aid Responder training working in the premises until 15:30pm each day .

It is acknowledged that 2 staff had the basic first aid training with an expiry date in February 2024.

At least one person trained in First Aid Response must be available to the children at all times while the service is in operation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)The First Aid certificates with expiry dates in June and August of 2024, were submitted for 3 staff members .
 The person in charge is enrolled for FAR training.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of the First Aid response certificates .

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 (1) has been adequately addressed. This will be assessed at the next inspection.