

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021WW001		
Name of Service:	LMNO Childcare		
Address of Service:	9A Purcell Lane, Rear Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow		
Eircode:	A98 Y3K6		
Name of Registered Provider:	Kieran McWilliams, Eileen Gill		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	06/07/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM 13
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, 1 st Floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow		
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke		
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

This full day care service was first established in 2021. It is located in the town centre of Bray Co. Wicklow. The premises consists of a single storey building which has been modified to accommodate the childcare service. There are two care rooms that are opened up into one space, a sanitary area, staff office and kitchen area. There is a large enclosed outdoor space to the front of the premises. The service is registered to provide care and education to children from two years to six years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday from 07.30 am to 06.00pm.

Staffing

There are five staff members employed in service and this includes one of the registered providers. The second registered provider does not work directly with the children. There were three staff members present on the day of inspection.

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 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)

There was a person in charge of the service and there was a named staff member who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The person in charge was on the premises at the time of arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a)

Written references were available from past employers with respect of four staff members.

- (b)
References from reputable sources were available for one staff member.
- (c)
The required Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of five staff members.
- (d)
Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months since turning 18 years of age.
- (4)
The five members of staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)
The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were three adults employed and present with fifteen children on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)

There were two adults on the premises at all times. The registered provider does not operate the service single-handedly.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

The person in charge had a copy of the Act and the Regulations on the premises at the time of inspection.

(c)

The copy of the Act was open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

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

The pre-school provides all the food and drinks for the children attending the service. All children have a snack in the morning time and the children attending for a full day have two hot meals. The service has a three week menu plan, which was displayed within the pre-school kitchen. All food is prepared on site and is in keeping with the Healthy Eating Policy of the service. Fresh drinking water was available to the children throughout their day. Children with special dietary needs or dietary restrictions were catered for. Food was available outside of mealtimes if required.

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:

- All cleaning products were stored, out of the reach of children.
- The emergency exit route in the pre-school room was clearly marked and free from obstruction.
- The entrance to the service was through a coded locked gate, which was securely closed with a magnetic lock on the day of inspection. The main door to the pre-school room was also closed and secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- All toys were in good condition and equipment was suitable and in good working order.

Infection Control:

- A cleaning schedule for the pre-school room was available and maintained.
- Hand sanitiser gel was available in the pre-school room.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed after using the toilet and before eating. Child friendly signing was located in the pre-school room sanitary area to encourage adults and children alike to effectively wash their hands.
- Tables were cleaned prior to and after snack time in the pre-school room.
- All children had access to a suitable sanitary area. There were two separate toilets units, each with its own sink. There was liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins, for the safe disposal of used hand towels, by both adults and children.

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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The designated person in charge ensured that all children attending the service were checked in and out on the service register.

(3)(a)(i-iv)

The designated person in charge ensured that no other person other than the agreed list of people had access to the service.

(b)

The designated person in charge had a record in writing, in the form of a visitors' book, of all such persons who accessed the service.

(4)

The designated person in charge was able to demonstrate that the visitors book was kept for a period of one year from the dates to which it related.

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)

A staff member trained in FAR first aid was present and immediately available to the children.

(2)(a)

The first aid box for children was stored in an accessible and conspicuous position inside the pre-school room.

(b)

At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school.

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.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(c) an authorised person.

(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)

There was evidence that regular fire drills haven taken place within the service. The last fire drill took place on the 23rd of June 2023.

(b)

There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms dated August 2022 and March 2023 respectively.

(2)(c)

The records referred to in paragraph (1) were available for inspection by an authorised person.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire clearly displayed in the pre-school room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The three staff members demonstrated they could provide adequate supervision of the children attending the pre-school service, at all times, during the inspection.