

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022GY005
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Name of Service:	Cairde Early Learning Centre
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Address of Service:	50 Tuairin, Roscam, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 XEH1
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Name of Registered Provider:	Noreen Murphy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	03/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	36
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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, S Meehan
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
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Description of service

This childcare service was established in Sept 2022, it was purpose built in a new housing estate in the outskirts of Galway city. It offers a full-time part time and sessional service to children aged between one to six years of age, from 7:00 AM two 6:00 PM, Monday to Friday. The building comprises of three playrooms, a designated sleep room and both children and staff sanitary areas. The children have access to a secure outdoor play area to the side and rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly in the service, there is a service manager appointed as the person in charge.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 and 11. however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 19,23. 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.

Additional Information

This inspection was triggered by information received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

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 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 deputy 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 deputy manager and the area support manager were on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

All 14 staff files were reviewed including the registered provider and area managers:

(2) (a)&(b) Twenty-eight written validated references were on file from a past employer or reputable source for the 14 adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of 14 adults working in the service.

(d) Eight adults worked outside the jurisdiction, for longer than six consecutive months or more, while over the age of 18 years and had the required police vetting disclosure.

(4) Thirteen adults who were working directly with the children, had evidence of an award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.
- On the day of inspection there were 46 pre-school children attending the morning session.
- At 2pm on the day of inspection ,there were 36 pre-school children in attendance.
- (2) Wobbler Playroom, there were 3 adults working with 10 children aged between 12 months and 24 months.
- Toddler playroom , there were 3 adults working with 17 children, aged between 18 months and 24 months.
- Pre-school room ,there was 3 adult working with 16 children aged between less than 3 years of age.

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

- The children were observed to play in the outdoor play area throughout the inspection, each playroom had opportunity to use the area.
- The children had access to drinks table in each playroom which allowed them to access drinks independently.
- Perishable items from children's lunch boxes were stored in the playroom fridges and were clearly labelled with each child's name.

Non-Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS

1. The dignity of the child was not respected at all times during nappy changing, it was observed that more than 1 child was brought to the nappy changing area at one time, while a child was being changed the other child was left sitting on a chair in the lobby area.
2. A sufficient alternative meal was not provided to children who did not like the meal that was offered.
 - The main meal of the day was sweet and sour chicken with white rice. Five plates of white rice were given to children in the Playschool room, the staff informed that the children didn't like the meal offered and this was the alternative meal offered to them. This was at variance with their Healthy eating policy of the service.
 - A child that was offered a plate of rice was observed going to the fridge and taking out her lunch box and directly eating a snack that was allocated for her afternoon snack.
3. When some children were finished snacks there were no activities that these children could play with and had to wait until all children were finished their snack. These children were observed to jump on the soft seating, stand on chairs and pushed and shoved each other.

4. Areas/interests of play were not readily available to allow children to transition from one activity to another in line with the programme of activity the service had developed for the day. Staff did not appear to communicate with each other with regard to these activities.
5. Positive behaviour management techniques were not observed. Staff did not help children to recognise and understand the guidance for playing and sharing with others. On the day a child was happily playing with a doll, when another child came and removed the doll, when the first child objected, a staff member was seen taking the doll from their hands without asking any questions or getting the children to resolve the conflict together. The child that was playing with the doll was observed to be very upset and was not comforted by the staff member.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Staff will only bring one child at a time to the nappy changing area, this practice is now part of the staff induction training.
2. If a child does not like the dinner served, we offer the child an alternative nutritious meal.
3. When a child is finished their snack, they are free to choose which ever toy they would like to play with. All shelving with toys is at child level.
4. The defined interest areas have been enhanced with extra toys and equipment.
5. Staff have received training on behavior management strategies, and it is included in the staff induction training.

Supporting documentation submitted

Menu plans, photographs and staff training records were submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted were reviewed and the non-compliances identified under 19 (1) have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. While there were 3 staff trained in first aid, there were no staff trained in First Aid Responder or rostered on the premises during the operational hours of the service. This posed a risk to the safety of children attending.
2. The storage of sleep mats on a trolley and against the wall in the Toddler playroom posed a safety risk to the children. It was observed that a child's toy rolled under the trolley and when a child went to retrieve the toy sleep mats were observed to fall on the child.

Infection Control:

The following points may pose a risk of cross infection:

3. A minimum 50 cm space was not provided between each sleep mat in the Toddler room, it is acknowledged the mats were moved ,when this was brought to the attention of the staff by the inspector.
4. The staff toilet was used to store personal belongings and cleaning equipment
5. The ventilation vents in the sanitary areas off the Wobbler room, did not appear to be working and had a build-up of dust.

Safe Sleep:

6. The temperature of the sleep room was not maintained between 16°C and 20°C.

The temperature was recorded by the inspection team at 22.4°C, which differed with the temperature that was recorded by staff on the sleep check log. Staff checked the temperature in this room in the morning and in the afternoon and then documented the temperature on the sleep check log, on the day a temperature of 20 °C was recorded every ten minutes when children were sleeping.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Two staff members have recently been received training in First Aid responder and this will be monitored in the future to ensure that at least 2 staff are trained in FAR at all times.
2. The sleep mats have been removed from the playroom.

Infection Control:

3. The sleep mats are placed 50 cm apart at all times during sleep time, this is monitored by management.
4. All staff have since been provided with sealed boxes for their belongings. Cleaning products are stored in a cupboard out of reach of the children.
5. The vents are cleaned on a monthly basis.

Safe Sleep:

6. The temperature of the sleep room is now maintained at 18°C.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs were submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted were reviewed and the non-compliances identified under 23 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed at the next inspection.