

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022LK001
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Name of Service:	Coolmine Mid-West
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Address of Service:	Mahon House, 25 Upper William Street, Limerick, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 T8KR
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anita Harris
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Service type:	Drop-In
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Dates of Inspection:	12/12/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	2	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla 2 nd Floor Estuary House Henry St Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	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

This drop-in centre operates from Coolmine Mid-West, Mahon House in Limerick City. Coolmine Mid-West is a drug and alcohol treatment centre that offers help to women to overcome addiction and support recovery. The drop-in centre provides childcare to women accessing the various programmes offered in Coolmine Mid-West and other external agencies. The service caters for children aged 0 to 6 years, Tuesday – Thursday, with a session running from 10:00hrs to 12:00hrs and 14:00hrs to 16:00hrs. A maximum of 10 preschool children can attend at any one time. The drop-in centre is located on the third floor of Mahon House. The children have access to 2 playrooms and sanitary facilities.

Staffing

The service has 2 staff working directly with the children each day and the designated person in charge is also available. All of the adults working directly with the children hold a qualification in early years care and education ranging from level 5 to 7 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 8,9,11,15,19,25,26 and 28.

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 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 the change of person in charge of the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A change in circumstances form has been submitted to the Early years Inspectorate which detailed the person in charge in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of the completed change in circumstances form submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider have addressed the requirements under regulation 8.

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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A designated person in charge of operating the service was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the designated person in charge was present and the staff roster indicated that this person or their deputy were always available on the premises.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for the three staff members employed to work at the service.

(b) References were submitted by staff from either their past employers or from other reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff employed to work at the service.

(d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had resided outside of Ireland for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The three staff working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

(7) Each employee had signed induction training records to demonstrate that they had received training on the policies and procedures of the service.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 2 pre-school children and 2 adults on the premises. The adult child ratio was correct in the facility.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

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

(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;

Non-Compliance Information

The following information was not available on each child’s registration form.

(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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All registration forms have been updated to incorporate allergies, illnesses, and immunisation records. Children already registered with the service have had their registration forms updated.

Supporting documentation submitted

Registration forms have been updated.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider have addressed the requirements under regulation 15.

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

Healthy eating was promoted with snacks provided by the service.

Children had access to their drinks throughout the session and staff were observed reminding the children to take regular drinks.

The room had a supply of tissues and wipes available to the children. A separate sleep room was provided for children under 2 years who required a sleep with a cot accessible at all times for the children. The toddlers over 2 years who required a sleep had access to low level beds/mats.

Toileting and nappy change facilities were available also in the building.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The room had safe and comfortable spaces for the children not yet walking to lie, roll, creep and crawl with lots of soft floor mats to facilitate floor-based activities.

There were low level tables and chairs to facilitate tabletop activities and dining at mealtimes. Open low-level shelving provided storage for toys and equipment.

Defined interest areas were provided where equipment and play materials were accessible.

Adult seating was available to facilitate staff sitting with children during the day.

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) One staff held current certification in first aid for children.

(2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the manager's office.

(b)The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child

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) (1)(a) A record of fire drills practiced on a monthly basis in the service was available.

(b)The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in November 2023. A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises. Smoke alarms were tested on September 2023.

(4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the entrance hall.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The Insurance certificate for the service was available and adequate and it had an expiry date of January 2024.