

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023DS001		
Name of Service:	Giraffe Childcare - Shackleton		
Address of Service:	Unit 1, Shackleton Mill, Shackleton Vale, Lucan, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	K78 R7PO		
Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	06/12/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	41	PM 39
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8		
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Brien & F. Carty		
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

Giraffe Childcare Shackleton is a full day care service provided by Giraffe Childcare Limited which provides 23 childcare services. The service provides full day, part-time and sessional care and caters for children from 0 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 07:30 to 18:30, Monday to Friday. On the day of inspection, the service was operating from 08:00 to 18:00.

The service is located in an urban residential area of southwest Dublin. It is a purpose built two storey premises with ten care rooms. Six care rooms were open on the day of inspection. Three rooms are located on the ground floor, Wobbler Baringo, Wobbler Acacia and Wobbler Safari all cater for children aged 1 year. Three rooms are located on the first floor, Toddler Botswana and Toddler Serengeti cater for children aged 2 years and Preschool Kilimanjaro caters for children aged 3 years. Three dedicated cot rooms are also located on the ground floor. There is a large fully enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs 23 staff including a manager. There were 19 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The service also employs a chef. The registered provider and area manager arrived during the morning of the 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 an announced initial inspection and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 - health, welfare and development of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler Baringo, Wobbler Acacia and Wobbler Safari rooms

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 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)(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) The files of twenty-three adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the forty-six references that were required, thirty-two were available from a past employer and fourteen were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the twenty-three staff members.

(d) Police vetting was required for twenty-one adults and was available for twenty adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult. Police vetting was not available for one adult, however, there was evidence to demonstrate that every reasonable effort had been made to obtain police vetting.

(4) Records were available evidencing that twenty-two staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. Four of these staff members held letters of eligibility to practice or qualification recognition letters from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

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 forty-one children attending the service being supervised by nineteen adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

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

(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)(a)(b)

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and staff reported that all meals are provided by the service. Children are offered breakfast on arrival and a fruit snack is provided during the morning. Dinner was served at 11:40. Drinking water was available to children throughout the day and all children were given water with their meal. Children were provided with bibs for dinnertime. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff were observed supporting younger children who needed assistance with their meal. Staff stated that additional servings of dinner were available. Staff in the Wobbler Baringo room were observed asking a child who had finished their meal if they wanted more and an additional serving was provided for this child.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's hands and faces after dinner as required. Children's noses were cleaned as required. Children's nappies were changed regularly and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. There was a designated nap time in the Wobbler Baringo, Wobbler Acacia and Wobbler Safari rooms.

The individual sleep needs of children were catered for outside the designated nap time. Staff were observed placing children down for a nap when they displayed signs of tiredness.

Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff interacted warmly with the children throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff were observed to use encouragement, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's behaviour management policy.

Staff described how they record information about each child's day detailing information on food, sleep and nappy changes on an online application. Staff described how they communicate with parents daily about their child at arrival and collection time.

Care rooms were arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Areas of interest included small world toys, construction toys, musical instruments, jigsaws, books and rest areas. The care rooms provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and were adequately resourced with a variety of materials. The materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care rooms. Family photos and birthday walls with children's photos were displayed in the care rooms.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was available to the rear of the premises with shock absorbent surfacing. The outdoor area was divided into two sections and both sections had a sheltered area available to children. The outdoor area was equipped with a range of developmentally appropriate play equipment. Children from the Wobbler Acacia and Wobbler Safari rooms accessed the outdoor area on the day of inspection.