

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2023GY003 |
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| Name of Service: | Derryoobur Childcare |
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| Address of Service: | Derryoobur, Gorteeny, Woodford, Co. Galway |
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| Eircode: | H62NY53 |
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| Name of Registered Provider: | Pauline Doogan |
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| Service type: | Sessional |
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| Date of Inspection: | 11/01/2024 |
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| No of pre-school children: | AM | 4 | PM | No. |
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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 |
| 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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not applicable |
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Description of service

Derryoover Childcare proposes to provide sessional childcare to pre-school children aged 2 years to 6 years .The pre-school service will operate from 9.15am to 12.15pm, Monday to Friday. The service is located in a playroom in the Derryoover National school, Gorteeny, Woodford, Co Galway. The service consists of one large and one smaller playroom and both adult and children’s sanitary areas. The service also has access to an outdoor play area at the rear the building.

Staffing

There are two adults working in the service, which included the registered provider.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety The inspection 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, 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 registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspections, the registered provider was in charge and there was also a named person who could deputise.
- (2) (a,b) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than the previous employer for the adult working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 2 adults.
- (d) Not applicable, as Police vetting was not required as no adult working in the service had lived for a period longer than 6 consecutive months outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) All adults working directly with children have obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there were 2 adults working directly with 4 pre-school children. At all times during the period of inspection, the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained.
- (8)(c) The registered provider had a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance, within a close distance and available to attend, in the event of an emergency.

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

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS:

- Children washed their hands before snack break, after toileting and outdoor play.
- Healthy eating was promoted within the service as was observed on the day of inspection, children were given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack time without been rushed. A staff member sat with the children and used this time to engage with the children in a positive manner, the children were heard telling the staff member what activities they had done during the previous weekend .

- Children are encouraged and supported to be independent in their toileting practices, the staff member could offer assistance as the sanitary area was conveniently located beside the playroom.
- Children are provided with individual spaces for their belongings e.g., individual hooks for their coats and spaces for their bags.
- Children's behaviour was positively reinforced. Children were encouraged and praised throughout the session; this was observed on numerous occasions during the inspection, when the children shared the toys with each other .
- Children had access to a tepee with cushions and rugs, this area was used by the children to relax during the session. The children used this area to sit and role play also ,they were able to close the curtain and play with various toys and look at picture books.
- The children had an opportunity to use the outdoor area on a few occasions during the session. On the day the children walked the parameter of the playground prior to their lunch time, this was in conjunction with the daily mile that the National school children were participating in.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The indoor environment consisted of 1 playroom which supported the age and stage of development of the children attending. The children also used the foyer area to engage in messy play and to eat their lunches.
- The outdoor play area was at the side the service, there was a selection of climbing frames, swings and other outdoor play equipment. The children had the use of the outdoor play area each day before and after snack time. The registered provider stated that the outdoor play area will be used by the pre-school children when the National school children are not using it.
- All the play materials and equipment were visible and easily accessible by the children on low level shelving and labelled baskets. The materials included a range of manipulative play materials including building blocks and stacking bricks.
- The children's artwork and various posters were on display around the room.
- All puzzles and toys were stored at the children level, so they could access them without the need for adult assistance.