

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023MH002		
Name of Service:	Chestnut Daycare		
Address of Service:	Cois Glaisin Drive, Johnstown, Navan Co Meath,		
Eircode:	C15 KRK7		
Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Higgins		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date(s) of Inspection:	07/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM 21
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8		
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Carty and E Mulhern		
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	N/A
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Description of service

Chestnut Daycare is a privately owned full day care, part time and sessional service and is one of six services operated by the registered provider in Co. Dublin and Co. Meath. The service is located in an urban, residential area of Johnstown, Co Meath. Care and education are provided to children aged between 0 and 6 years and the service is open from Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 6.00pm. Chestnut Daycare is a purpose built single storey property and comprises of five care rooms and a dedicated sleep room. The children have access to two outdoor play areas to the rear of the premises.

On the day of inspection there were three care rooms in use.

Staffing

The service currently employs seven adults who work directly with the children, including the designated person in charge. The registered provider was present on the day of inspection working from the office and a cook was also present.

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 and health, welfare and development of child. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

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

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, registered provider, person in charge and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

The inspection focussed on the records of nine staff members who had been recruited since the service commenced operating.

(2)

(a) Thirteen validated past employer references were available for inspection in respect of seven new employees recruited.

(b) Three additional references were available from a source other than a past employer for two staff members.

(c) Garda vetting records were available for all staff.

(d) Police vetting records were available for six staff members who had lived abroad for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4)

There was evidence that six of the adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b)

Two staff members did not have a reference from a reputable source.

(4)

There was no evidence available to demonstrate that two staff members had achieved a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or an equivalent qualification.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

We have received the new reference for each staff member. Will make sure all reference is from suitable source when employing new staff members. Will add note to staff checklist.

(4)

We have applied to DCYA for recognition and QQI also. Will ask all staff with qualifications from outside of Ireland to apply to DCYA, before employment starts.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b) Evidence of references received.

(4) Evidence of application for qualification recognition received.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with evidence submitted were reviewed by the inspector and have addressed the non-compliances under Regulation 9.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 27 pre-school children attending the service being supervised by seven adults during the inspection.

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 service promoted healthy eating and provided all meals and snacks to the children. On the day of inspection cereal was served for breakfast followed by fruit, crackers and cheese for a mid-morning snack and hot meal of chilli con carne with rice was served for lunch. Drinking water was available in all care rooms.

There were rest areas available in each care room and appropriate sleep facilities were provided for children who required sleep throughout the day.

Children were observed to be encouraged to manage their own personal care throughout the inspection, appropriate to their age and stage of development. Examples included, independently accessing the sanitary facilities when necessary and self-feeding during mealtimes. Staff were available to support and guide children who required help.

Nappy changing was carried out at set times and as and when required. Staff were observed to engage with the children in a positive and sensitive manner during each change.

There was ample room for the children to move freely in both the indoor and outdoor areas. All children were observed to use the outdoor area on the day of inspection.

All care rooms were set out in clearly defined areas with equipment and resources to provide opportunities to meet the learning needs of the children across all areas of development. These included a home corner with props, cosy area with books of varying interest to read and low level shelving with puzzles and table top activities available to children to choose as they wished. Staff also had additional materials including art materials and play dough to encourage creative and imaginative play.

The outdoor area contained two separate areas for the children. A number of ride on toys and impact absorbing surfacing was present in both areas.

Staff supported children to resolve minor disagreements using positive language and offering alternative activities. Staff were observed to comfort children who were upset and interactions were warm, engaging and sensitive to the children as a number of them were settling into the service for the first time.

Staff communicated with parents at drop off and collection relaying information of the child's day to ensure continuity of care.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The temperature recorded in the Toddler Room was recorded as 26.1°Celsius throughout the inspection which exceeds the required room temperature of 18 – 22°Celsius.

It is acknowledged that it was a very warm day and the registered provider took steps to lower the temperature including opening windows.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. We open windows each morning. We have recorded the temperatures each day for this room.

On the day of inspection. Will keep a close eye on the room temperatures over the next few months, as we have only just moved into the building, we will have to monitor the heating system.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of thermometer recording the room temperature.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with evidence submitted were reviewed by the inspector and have addressed the non-compliances under Regulation 23.

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

Safe Sleep:

The room temperature of the sleep room was recorded as 26.1°Celsius whilst 6 children aged 1 year slept.

It is acknowledged that the registered provider took steps to address the temperature including having two fans and an air conditioning unit in place to lower the temperature. A staff member remained in the sleep room whilst the children were sleeping.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Safe Sleep:

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Summary Comment

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