

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023WW001			
Name of Service:	Riverside Childcare Rathdrum			
Address of Service:	Oaks Springs, The Woods, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow			
Eircode:	A67 AH74			
Name of Registered Provider:	Michael Dunster			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	28/11/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	19
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow			
Inspection undertaken by:	H.Bourke			
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

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Description of service

This private childcare facility aims to provide full day care for children aged one year to six years of age. The service can accommodate a maximum number of 28 children at full capacity. The service consists of a two storey, purpose-built premises which can accommodate the childcare service.

There are two care rooms available on the ground floor with a dedicated sleep room, a staff room and a kitchen. There is one large enclosed outdoor space on the premises. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between one to six years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08.00 hrs and 18.00 hrs

Staffing

There are seven staff members employed in the service and six members were present on the day of inspection, this included the service manager. All six members of staff were working directly with 19 pre-school children. The service manager in charge was supernumerary and was available to assist as required to cover break times for staff, the manager was also engaged in facilitating the inspection. The registered provider does not work with the children and was not present on the day of 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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child. 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 service manager, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information

A total of seven staff are employed in the pre-school service, these files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

The service had a manager and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The manager was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

There was a clear management structure within the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Written validated references were available in respect of seven adults.

(c)

Completed Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for seven adults employed.

(d)

International police vetting was available for two adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

Seven members of staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent.

(6A)

Two staff members were employed pursuant to the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

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)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)
There were six adults employed and present with 19 children on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)
There were more than two adults present on the premises throughout the inspection and the staff roster confirmed there were two adults present 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,

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS:

- There was a healthy eating policy in place and this was reflected in the morning snack sent in by parents for their children attending the service and the breakfast and hot dinner that are provided by the service.
- Adults sat with the children during their lunch and conversation was encouraged.
- Children were given plenty of time to eat their food in a relaxed and unhurried environment.
- Children were given opportunities to make choices as to which activities they wished to pursue and were supported in their choice by the staff present.
- There was water available for children to drink throughout the morning.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The adults sat at the children's level, addressed them by name when communicating with them.
- A strong teamwork ethos was evident by the interactions between the staff members.
- The adults demonstrated warmth towards the children, using calm voices, positive language and children's choices were respected at all times during the inspection.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way. There was incident observed between two children who wanted a specific item, both children became anxious and visibly upset with each other. Two of the staff members present intervened immediately and knelt down to be at the level of each child and explained that certain behaviours were not allowed and the importance of being kind to one another and sharing toys. The issue was resolved quickly and both children resumed playing together.
- Children's parents were spoken to directly at the end of the day to discuss how their child was during the day and any issues that might have arisen. In addition, the service used a secure online web group to keep in contact with parents.

- Children were supported and encouraged to be independent with using the toilet but were supervised appropriately. Hand washing following toilet use was observed and children were encouraged to wash their hands following the visual aids put up in the sanitary area.
- There were regular nappy changing times for the children who were not toilet trained and additional nappy changing took place when required.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The pre-school room was equipped with low level tables /chairs, low level shelving with equipment and materials easily accessible to the children.
- The outdoor play area consisted of a large, grassed area with a sand pit, picnic table and chairs, rocking toys, push toys, a playhouse, a slide and a mud kitchen were available for the children and there was a sheltered area where the children could play in inclement weather.