

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024GY001				
Name of Service:	Swan Childcare				
Address of Service:	Gleann na Mona, Ballymoneen Road, Knocknacarra, Co. Galway				
Eircode:	H91 792T				
Name of Registered Provider:	Phyllis Reddington				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	23/09/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>35</td> <td>PM</td> <td>32</td> </tr> </table>	AM	35	PM	32
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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, S Meehan.
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	Click or tap here to enter text.
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Description of service

This purpose-built childcare service is located in a newly built residential area, in Knocknacarra, in the outskirts of Galway city. The service operated a full day care service from 7:45am to 18:00pm from Monday to Friday. It catered for children from 1 to 6 years. The service had a well-equipped outdoor space located to the rear of the premises. This service had 6 playrooms, sanitary areas, 2 designated sleep rooms, staff room and a kitchen area.

Staffing

On the day of inspection, there were 13 adults working in the service ,which included the registered provider and the human resource manager.

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 the 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 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) The service manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named persons who were able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider and the service manager were on the premises and facilitated the inspection.
- It was confirmed that there were 18 members of staff working in the service, which included the registered provider, childcare staff, 1 human resource manager and a chef.
- All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) There were 31 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.
- (b) There was 5 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all the staff working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting for staff members every three years.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 8 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) There were 16 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) During the period of inspection, there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.
- (2) On the morning of inspection, there were 10 adults caring for the 35 pre-school children attending the morning session.
- At 14.00pm on the day of inspection, there were 10 adults caring for the 32 pre-school children attending in afternoon.

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

- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunchtime and after using the toilet and after outdoor playtime. This was made more convenient for the children as the hand washing sinks in the playrooms were at the children level and the children were able to independently wash their hands and the staff were able to offer assistance when required.
- Children were independent with their toileting needs. However, on occasion some children needed a reminder from staff.

- Children's drinks were available to the children throughout the day, the drinks were located on a low-level shelf.
- Parents provided the snacks for the children attending on a sessional basis. The service provided all the snacks and meals for children attending on a Full day care basis. On the day of inspection, the main meal consisted of pasta bolognaise for the main meal and yogurt and fruit for the snack .
- Children were independent with their toileting needs. They were able to use the sanitary area that was adjacent to the playroom and in the central area.
- Staff provided for each child need to sleep rest and relaxation . Staff allow younger children to sleep and rest when they were tired and not just that designated times. The sleep room for the younger children was located adjacent to the children’s playroom. Stackable beds were used for the over twos, to sleep and relax. On the day of inspection ,the downstairs playroom was converted into a sleep room for children over 2’s that required sleep, children from another playroom that required sleep joined this room. Children were settled down to sleep and we physically checked every 10 minutes.
- There were a range of soft seating in all of the playrooms, for the children to sit and relax. Children playing in the outdoor play area were observed sitting and relaxing on soft circular shapes in the play area.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- The atmosphere between the children and the staff remained calm and relaxed throughout the inspection. The younger children in the service were observed playing for long periods of time in the covered outdoor play area. They were observed randomly crawling and walking up to staff members for extra reassurances and hugs. Staff in these playrooms spend a large amount of time sitting on the floor playing with the children. Staff were observed constantly talking, sharing information and positively engaging within one another during the inspection.
- The transition of children into the service was made as easy as possible, sibling got an opportunity to meet as much as possible, especially in the outdoor play areas, where they get to see each other every day.
- The transition of children between the playrooms was also made as easy as possible as the younger age groups get to play together in the same play area, so therefore all the children are familiar and comfortable with all the staff members.
- Staff attended the children in a timely and in a sensitive manner when they cried or became upset.