

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024KE003			
Name of Service:	Maap Childcare Limited T/A Tots Creche and Daycare Nursery			
Address of Service:	Oak Park, Naas, Co. Kildare			
Eircode:	W91 CX3K			
Name of Registered Provider:	Annette Akerlind, Audrey Murray			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	13/06/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	60	PM	59
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Suite 7 Vista Primary Care Centre Child and Family Agency Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38			
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Maher, 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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<p>Description of service</p> <p>Tots crèche and day care nursery is a new full day care service located in a private residential estate in Naas that commenced operating in March 2024. A full day care service is provided to children aged between 0-6 years old and opening hours are Monday to Friday from 07:00am-18:30pm. Part time care is offered and sessional care and education is available for 38 weeks of the pre-school year. There are five pre-school rooms, a dedicated sleep room, a kitchen, staff room and an office provided. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises.</p>
<p>Staffing</p> <p>There were sixteen adults present in the service, this included the persons in charge, relief staff member, operations manager, one student and one cook. Eleven adults were working directly with the children, the person in charge, deputy person in charge and operations manager were available to assist in the care rooms as required. The registered providers do not work directly with the children.</p>
<p>Methodology</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous inspection history • Any information received in relation to the service <p>The findings on inspection are based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>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.</p>

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, operations manager, 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)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

The records of seventeen staff members employed and/or present in the service were reviewed.

(2)(a),(b)

Thirty four written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of five records reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all employed staff members.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed.

(d) Police vetting was available for eight staff members who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

Twelve members of staff employed and who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the minister to be equivalent. Three staff members were in possession of a letter of qualification recognition issued by 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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
There were 60 children attending the service being supervised directly by eleven staff members during the inspection.
- (2)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6.
- (8)(a)
There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the inspection; this was confirmed following review of the staff roster for the service.

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

(1)(a) Basic needs of children

There was a healthy eating policy in place and the service provided all snacks and meals which were freshly prepared by the onsite cook. The morning snack served was fruit salad and rice cakes and the main hot meal was chicken with homemade tomato sauce, vegetables and mashed potatoes. A four week menu was displayed and was observed to be varied and nutritionally adequate. Water was freely available in the pre-school rooms to the children throughout the day and milk was available and stored in the fridges in each room.

Children were afforded plenty of time to eat their meals and were not rushed and during conversation with staff members, they advised they were very observant of any foods that had the potential risk of choking and immediately halved or cut food into smaller pieces.

Children enjoyed freedom of movement within all the pre-school rooms. A garden timetable is in place and children from the Toddler and Wobbler rooms had a period of outdoor play during the morning. The children were dressed appropriately for outdoor play in waterproof clothes as it was drizzling for a time in the morning.

Nappy changing procedures were carried out on a routine basis and more frequently if required.

A sleep room with six standard cots for children aged less than two years was available and two children less than one year old were observed being put down for a period of sleep when they showed signs of tiredness.

Low level sleep beds with appropriate bed linen were available for children aged 2 years and above requiring sleep at a designated time while attending the full day care or part-time services.

Children's behaviour was managed positively with an emphasis on positive praise and encouragement.

Supporting relationships around children

The children were observed to be content and relaxed within their pre-school rooms.

On the day of the inspection all staff members were observed to be warm, kind and respectful towards the children in their care. Children were spoken to using their first names, appropriate eye contact was made and soft voice tones were used during all interactions.

Children in the Baby room were observed being held and carried and staff were affectionate in their interactions with them and cuddled and soothed any child that was tired or upset.

Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times. A daily written record was maintained for the children attending the Baby, Wobbler and Toddler rooms which outlined food eaten, time nappies were changed, toileting, sleep times, activities and any other comments; this was shared with parents at collection time.

Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary and email and telephone contact are used as an alternative method of contact.

Physical and material environment

The pre-school rooms were constructively planned with areas of interest including, home/kitchen corners, construction, mark making, small world and dress up. The rooms were resourced with suitable age appropriate play and learning materials and included puzzles, jigsaws, magnets, musical instruments, puppets, blocks, animals, cars and books. There was adequate art and craft materials for cutting, gluing and sticking and plenty of paper and crayons, paint and playdough. Wooden wall mounted puzzles were added areas of interest in the rooms. The Baby room was equipped with plenty of stacking and shape sorter wooden toys, lift out wooden jigsaws with large graphics and push/pull equipment, messy play activities included finger painting and an activity with shredded paper was planned.

The outdoor play area was equipped with tables and chairs, a wooden climbing frame, wooden teepee and large bus structure, outdoor kitchen and sand trays, push/pull and ride on equipment.