

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020GY007
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Name of Service:	Little Adventures Childcare
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Address of Service:	64 Lissadyra, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H54 D922
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sharon Ferry
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date of Inspection:	04/07/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	5	PM	5
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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).	

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Little Adventures Childcare Service was established in 2020. It operates as a childminding service from 7.30am to 18.00pm from Monday to Friday. It caters for children from 0 to 6 years.

The service was located in a residential housing estate on the outskirts of Tuam, Co Galway. The service comprised of 1 dedicated playroom at the rear of the home and a dedicated sleep room upstairs, with sanitary areas, the children dine in the kitchen. There was a well-equipped play area in the back garden.

Staffing

The childminder worked with the children daily and there was a person familiar with the operating of the service available and in a position to offer assistance to the childminder in the event of an emergency.

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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ 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 9,11,12,19.

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.

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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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the childminder 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.*

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(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 childminder was available on the day of the inspection and a named person was available to come to the service in the event of an emergency.
- (b) During the period of the inspection, the registered childminder was present on the premises.
- (2)(a) Written references from past employers were available for the childminder and the person who was available to deputise in the event of an emergency.
- (b) Written references from a source other than the previous employer were available for the childminder and the person who was available to deputise in the event of an emergency.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered childminder and the person who is available in the event of an emergency.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as the children minder and the person who was available to deputise in the event of an emergency had not lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) The childminder held qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and*

Compliance Information

- (8)(b) The emergency person who was familiar with the operation of the childminding service was located within a close distance and was available to come to the service if required in an emergency.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 12 - Childminders

(1) A childminder shall ensure that-

- (a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,*
- (b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and*
- (c) there is a working telephone on the premises.*

(2) A childminder may have more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time where all such children are siblings of each other.

Compliance Information

(1)

- (a) On the day of the inspection there were 5 preschool children being cared for by the childminder.
- (b) There were no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months present on the day of the inspection.
- (c) There was a working phone on the premises on the day of inspection.
- (2) Not applicable, as there were no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months present on the day of 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*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

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Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS

- There was a healthy eating policy documented at the service. The parents of the children supply the main meal and snacks which varied each day.
- The children had access to toilet facilities and nappy changing facilities were provided, which was conveniently located in the downstairs hallway.
- A hand washing policy was in place, children were observed washing their hands before snack times. The children sang a song to make the exercise into a fun activity.
- Sleeping facilities were available for the babies and children attending the service. Two standard cots for the children under 2 years were provided in a sleep room upstairs.
There were 2 stackable beds that were put down in the playroom for children over 2 years that required sleep. Children not requiring sleep were relocated to the kitchen space or the outdoor area while they slept.
- Children's behaviour was positively reinforced. Children were encouraged and praised throughout the session; This was observed on numerous occasions, e.g., when a child finished their snack, they brought their plate and cup to the counter to help tidy up.

Supporting Relationships around Children

- The childminder and the childminder daughter on the day provided a consistent, familiar and welcoming presence for children. The children were very relaxed and content in their company.
- The childminder's interactions with the children were positive and caring in their approach to the children. Children were listened to and communicated with in an ongoing basis and regularly praised for their efforts .
- The childminder operated in partnership with parents. They were spoken to each day at collection time in relation to how the children had been at the service. This was observed on the morning of the inspection.
- Children were supported to engage positively with each other. Children were encouraged to be helpful, take turns, share resources and negotiate solutions when disputes arose.