

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020MH001
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Sycamore Seeds
-------------------------	----------------

Address of Service:	21 Ross na Ri, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	C15 T2W4
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Moran
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Childminder
----------------------	-------------

Date of Inspection:	25 January 2023
----------------------------	-----------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	4
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

The childminding service is located in an urban setting within a residential housing estate. A service is provided to children aged between 6 months to 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07.30am to 18.00pm. The premises is located in a 2-storey house with an outdoor play area including a partially covered decking area to the back of the house

Staffing

The registered provider was the person in charge and was present for the inspection. Additionally, a member of the registered provider family was present for some of the inspection and assisted with the care of the children.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,12,19,20,21,22,23,25,26 &28.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 *registered provider* and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Compliance Information

As the registered provider is the sole operator of the service, there was no new staff employed since the last inspection. The staff files for the registered provider and a member of the registered providers family were reviewed at the last inspection and met regulatory compliance.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children during the inspection. The child minder cared for four children aged between 1 year 2 months to 3 years 9 months. Additionally, a member of the child minders family was present.

(8)(b) A second person in the event of an emergency was identified and available to the childminder

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) There were 4 children present on the day of inspection.
- (b) There was only one child aged less than 15 months registered to attend the childminding service.
- (c) The registered provider had a working mobile phone with the contact details for the parents/guardian saved on her phone.
- (2) One child aged 14 months was registered with the service, the remaining children were over 2 years of age.

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) The childminder was observed interacting with the children present with warmth and affection through being available, talking in soft tones and with smiling welcoming facial expressions. The children sought out the childminder who was responsive to the child's cues both verbal and non-verbal. Children were regularly lifted and cuddled. The children appeared confident and happy in the home from home environment. Two children attend a local preschool at 12md and the second person available to the registered provider drops the children to the preschool and collects two children that attend the morning session in the preschool and bring them to the childminder. Children enjoyed playing in the outdoors and the childminder provided some of the wet gear for the children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(b) In the sitting room there was a soft cosy area available to the children and also a large couch for a child to rest, if needed. Two cots were available with only 1 cot in use on the day of inspection for the child under 2 years to sleep in.

(3)(a) There was a suitable, safe, and secure outdoor space off the kitchen area. The outdoor space had an artificial grass surface and was enclosed with walls and wooden fencing.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The sitting room had a range of toys and equipment such as home area, push along toys, wooden puzzles, battery operated toys, books, cosy area, art and craft materials. Child sized table and chairs were available for tabletop activities in the kitchen area and for meals. The outdoor area had a partially covered area that leads from the patio doors outside to the garden. Equipment in the outdoors included a plastic playhouse, art easel, sit on toys, planting areas, water/sand table, basketball hoop, and lawn mower. A storage shed contained ride on tricycles, push along toys, dolls house and plastic building blocks.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

Parents supply lunches and a main meal for the children. The registered provider also has food available in the house, if required.

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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

The following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- Low level windows were all appropriately secured.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The television in the sitting room was anchored.
- All sharp items and electrical equipment in the kitchen area were placed out of reach.

Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- Protective equipment e.g., aprons and gloves were provided for nappy changing.
- Liquid soap, hand paper towel and warm water not exceeding 43°C was available in the sanitary facilities.
- Children were assisted to wash their hands following outdoor play and before meals.

Safe Sleep:

Safe sleep practices were demonstrated by the following examples:

- A sleep log was available to record 10 minutes sleep checks.
- The sitting room had blinds which could be pulled down which created an atmosphere conducive to sleep.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-

(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment. The fighting equipment was last serviced on the last serviced on the 25th May 2022.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Non-Compliance Information

(b) A service record was not available for the mains powered smoke alarms on the premises.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A visit from the fire officer has been arranged for next week (27/2/23-4/3/23). This is a site survey following which a decision will be made whether or not the alarms will need to be replaced. Evidence has been submitted to the inspector of correspondence with fire officer confirming site visit.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has not submitted evidence of the smoke alarms maintenance certificate. This regulation remains outstanding. The registered provider is required to provide assurances that the smoke detection system is adequate and is in proper working order.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the childminding service had a valid insurance certificate for 5 preschool children with an expiry date of 25th September 2023.