

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK176
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Name of Service:	The Childrens Place
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Address of Service:	33 Richmond Park, Corbally, Limerick, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 P9VA
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Name of Registered Provider:	Valerie Beegan
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date(s) of Inspection:	18/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	3	PM	3
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

The Children's Place is a childminding service operating from the childminders home in Corbally, close to Limerick city. It operates Monday to Friday, 7.45am to 6.00pm. It caters for children of all pre-school ages. A service for school aged children is offered each afternoon. There are at present 5 pre-school children registered to attend the service.

Staffing

The childminder operates the service single handed. There is a second person available to assist with meal preparation each morning and with the care of the school aged children each evening. The registered provider has a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25, 26, 28.

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 registered provider, 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,*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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 registered provider is the childminder who owns and operates the service.

(b) The childminder was present in the service at the time of the inspection.

(2)(a) There were written references available for the childminder and for the second person available to assist the childminder when needed.

(b) All references available were all from past employers or from another reputable source.

(c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available in respect of the childminder and her assistant.

(d) Not applicable to this service as the childminder and her assistant had not lived outside the jurisdiction.

(4) The childminder and her assistant hold the required qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Compliance Information

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(8)(b) The childminder ensures that there is a second person located close to the service that they can call on in the event of an emergency. This person is familiar with everyone in the service and can offer assistance if needed. A second person is available each day to assist at mealtimes and with the school aged service each afternoon.

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) The childminder had 5 pre-school children on the register at the time of the inspection. On the day of the inspection there was 3 preschool children present.

(b) There were not more than 2 children under the age of 15 months attending the service at the time of the inspection.

(c) There was a working telephone available on the premises for the childminder to use if required at any stage while minding the children.

(2) Not applicable.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) All children's registration forms were reviewed. The service had a record in writing containing the following particulars for each of the children.

- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) Provision was made to record the date on which the child ceased to attend the service.
- (d) The name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service.
- (e) Authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) Details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
- (h) Record of immunisations, received by the child.

Non-Compliance Information

The following was not available on the children's registration forms.

- (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

A consent form is now available for all children giving the childminder each parents consent to give appropriate medical assistance in the event of an emergency.

Supporting documentation submitted

The details of the content of each consent form was forwarded in the corrective action plan.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliances identified under Regulation 15 have been adequately addressed.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(1) The registered providers ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service.

- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily. These correlated with the numbers that were present on the day of inspection.
- (i) Staff rosters were maintained on a daily basis and available for inspection.
- (j) The service had a medication administration record template available that could be used in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered at the service
- (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) A written record of the following in relation to the service was not available at time of inspection.

- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the persons in charge.
- (b) Details of the type of service in operation and the age profile of children for which the facility is registered to provide services.
- (c) Details of the adult: child ratios in the service.
- (d) The type of care or programme provided in the service.
- (e) The facilities available.
- (f) The opening hours and fees.
- (g) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10 and were found to be comprehensive and detailed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) A detailed information document has been created with all of the above information (a)-(g) included in the document. This will be shared with all parents of children who attend the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

The content of the form was outlined in the corrective action plan forwarded by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliances identified under Regulation 16 have been adequately addressed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

BASIC NEEDS

The childminding service offered childcare to a small group of not more than 5 preschool children at any one time. The service provides all meals and snacks throughout each day. On the day of the inspection chicken nuggets and potato waffles were offered at dinner time. The menu plan for the week showed a variety of healthy options are offered on all other days. Fresh fruit and nutritious snacks of crackers, rice cakes and yogurts were available for children at regular intervals between mealtimes.

Nappy changing facilities and toilets were located next to the Preschool room where children could be easily supervised. Childrens toiletries were stored within easy reach of the changing unit. The nappy changing policy was displayed on the wall of the bathroom. Hot water and paper hand towels were available to ensure hygienic hand washing for adults and children.

Children who required a sleep during the day had access to a standard cot for sleep in a bedroom on the first floor of the building. Children were monitored closely while sleeping.

An outdoor play area was located to the rear of the premises.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

The service provided a wide variety of play equipment for all age groups and for children at all stages of development. Toys in the playroom were changed and rotated depending on the age range of the children and their interests and capabilities.

All toys were stored on low level open shelving or in toys boxes located on the ground. This facilitated children having choice when deciding which materials to engage with. The dining room table was used for dining at mealtimes and for table top activities such as art and craft work.

Non-Compliance Information

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

There was insufficient amount of play materials and interest spaces in the outdoor play area. No area for gardening or planting was available outside. The plastic goal post and the basketball net were both broken and not fit for purpose. There was no physical or challenging experiences or exploration opportunities provided for the children in the outdoor space.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The play materials in the outdoor area of the service that were broken have all been replaced. The registered provider stated that new equipment has been purchased for this area and work is ongoing in improving the type of outdoor play environment at the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

A detailed plan for improving the outdoor area which included the rotation of play equipment in storage at the service was outlined in the registered providers corrective action plan.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliances identified under Regulation 19 have been adequately addressed.

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.

Compliance Information

1(b) Adequate rest facilities were provided for all children who required a sleep during the day. Suitable cots were located in an upstairs bedroom in the home. In this room a quiet space with reduced noise levels and reduced lighting provides a relaxed area for children to sleep. Children were closely monitored while sleeping. Soft couches, armchairs and low-level stackable beds were accessible to the older children to rest and relax during the day if tired.

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 childminder had first aid training completed and her certificate is in date up to June 2023.

(2)(a) There was a first aid box located in the service.

(b) The first aid box was readily available and accessible if required.

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 record of all recent fire drills was available for inspection. The most recent fire drill took place on the 19th of April 2023.

(b) All firefighting equipment was serviced in July 2022.

(4) The procedures to follow in the event of a fire was displayed in the main hallway.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

The services insurance certificate was viewed on the day of inspection. The policy commenced on the 28th of March 2023 and will be due for renewal on the 27th of March 2023.