

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015FL292

Name of Service: Sylvia's Childcare

Address of Service: 55 Stonebridge Avenue,
Clonsilla,
Dublin 15
D15 YDP6

Email Address: sylviaschildcare@yahoo.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Sylvia Elworthy

Type of Service Registered: **Childminding** ✓

Date of Inspection: 0 7 0 4 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 5

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate,
2nd Floor,
Brunel Building,
Heuston South Quarter,
Dublin 8

Inspection undertaken by: Aileen Bradshaw
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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.

Description of Service	Sylvia's Childcare offers home from home childcare for children aged between 1-6 years of age. The service is open from 8am to 5pm. This childminding service was established in 2012 and offers care to no more than five children at any one time.
Premises	The service is in the registered provider's home. The children's care is based in the kitchen, living room and a sleep room with one cot. The children have access to the garden area at the rear of the home.
Staffing	The registered provider works directly with the children. A second person is available if required with an emergency person available on site if necessary.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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. 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 areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and was available upon the inspector's arrival and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. A second person familiar with the service and a third person was available to assist in the event of an emergency.
- (2)(a)(b) For the six required validated references, three references from a past employer and three references from reputable sources were available for the registered provider, person on call and the emergency contact person.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all three adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available for two adults as they had lived in a state other than the State for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) The registered provider held a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels

(8) (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:

(8)(b) The registered provider ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service is within close distance and is in a position to provide assistance if required. The registered provider also has an arrangement made with a third adult, who is familiar with the operation of the service, and is available to provide emergency assistance.

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 inspection, there were five children in attendance. Records indicated there were no more than five children in attendance at any one time.
- (b) Not applicable as no child in attendance was under the age of 15 months old.
- (c) A charged mobile phone was on the premises
- (2) Not Applicable as there were no siblings in attendance was under the age of 15months old.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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:

Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted in accordance with the Healthy Eating Policy. Children had just finished their morning snack on the inspector's arrival at 11am. This consisted of fruit and yogurts. Parents provided the children's snacks and main meal of the day.
- The children's drinks were available throughout the inspection and the childminder was observed offering drinks to individual children throughout the morning.
- Children were observed to have freedom of movement within the kitchen, sitting room and the garden.
- The children had comfortable couches to read or rest on throughout the day.
- Children were encouraged to practice self-care skills. Children were encouraged to remove their shoes independently before putting on their wellies to go outside.

Supporting Relationships:

- The registered provider was observed to use supportive and complimentary language to the children. During an organised art activity, the staff were observed to compliment children as they worked on their Easter Bunnies and offer 'high fives'.
- Children work was titled and displayed in the kitchen, giving children ownership on their artwork.
- The registered provider offered support and guidance to the children. The provider was observed to demonstrate the activity and then encouraged the children to take the lead and work independently.
- The registered provider took time to listen to the children's interests and amend the planned activity. The original plan was postponed as the children expressed an interest in playing with playdough in the garden.
- The children ages ranged from 21 months to 4 years. The registered provider accommodated the mixed aged play to allow older children to have an awareness of the younger children without curtailing their own exploration. The provider was observed to suggest to an older child to give the younger children a little more time to complete their activity.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	Physical And Material Environment: - On the inspector's arrival at the service, the children were just finishing their morning snack at two low tables in the kitchen. These tables and chairs were easily accessed by all children. - Children had access to the following variety of equipment and materials: - A well accessorised play kitchen - A doctor's surgery - Large building blocks - A range of books - Garages and cars and trucks and a road mat. - Shape sorters and stackers - The registered provider had a large variety of materials, toys and equipment stored on well organised shelving to be rotated when required. - The children had access to the outdoor area. The space had a soft surface covered area leading onto a grassed lawn. This space had slides, wheeled toys, a playhouse see saws and a low bench. There was a planting area also. Children accessed this area on the day of inspection.
Non-Compliance Information:	Basic Needs: Children's dignity was not afforded while going to the toilet. At 12.45pm two children were observed to use a potty to go to the toilet in the kitchen. There was one toilet upstairs however only one child of the four potty trained children used this facility.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>Corrective Action</u> Basic Needs: The non-compliance has been rectified. Potties have been removed from the kitchen area with a designated Potty area established. This is easy to access and offers privacy to children using it. Children have been informed and now use the new potty area. <u>Preventative Action</u> The potty-training policy and procedures were reviewed and amended in conjunction with the toileting and toilet training policy and procedure. Children are informed and encouraged to use the potty area and the toilet individually and to respect each-others privacy. <u>Evidence Submitted</u> Photographic evidence submitted of the potty area. A copy of the reviewed and amended potty training and toileting policies and procedures were received by the inspectorate. Receipts for materials and furniture bought to create the amended potty area were submitted.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	A copy of the individual plan to observe child's readiness for transitioning from potty to toilet training were received by the inspectorate.
Summary Comment	On review of the corrective, preventive actions and evidence submitted, the regulatory requirement for Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child has been met.

SAFETY

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: - On arrival to the service, the inspector observed that the entrance door was secure to facilitate the supervised entrance and exit of visitors and children. - Turnkey lock present on the entrance door of the service. - Attendance records were present, completed, and accurate. - Cleaning materials were appropriately stored away from the children in a high press in the sanitary facility. - Risk assessments for each room and the outdoor area were available and completed daily. Infection Control: - The service was visually clean on the day of inspection and the provider was observed cleaning the tables after the children's snack. Children were observed to wipe down their chairs during the morning. - A cleaning schedule was available with an up-to-date check list completed. - The registered provider used playdough, each child had their own individual colour and tub of playdough and were familiar with their own one. - Documentation reviewed and discussions with registered provider demonstrated that the enhanced cleaning and records introduced during the covid pandemic are still in place in the service. - There was warm water, paper towels and liquid soap available for handwashing. Children were observed to be assisted by the registered provider to maintain hand hygiene at the relevant times throughout the inspection as per the service policy, for example, children were observed to wash their hands before their lunch. - Children's lunches were refrigerated until required.
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	Safe Sleep: One cot was provided for a child under two who required a sleep. On discussion with the registered provider, she described how the youngest child does not sleep during the day, but the facilities are available if required.
Non-Compliance Information:	Infection Control: Children were observed to use a potty to go to the toilet in the kitchen area. This poses a risk of cross infection.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>Corrective Action</u> Infection Control: Individual potties have been removed from the kitchen area. A designated potty area was established which is safe, easy to access and clean. Children have been informed and use the new potty area, one child at a time. An extra potty has been placed in the toilet (for potty training children if a second child needs to use it and the potty area is already in use). <u>Preventive Action</u> Infection Control: The potty-training policy and procedures have been reviewed and amended. Toileting and toilet training policy and procedures also have been reviewed and amended. Based on children's ability and toilet readiness they are encouraged and supported to use the toilet. Individual Plan for toileting is put in place – (after communicating with child's parents) to observe their readiness to transition from potty training to toileting and based on their personal development. Children are informed and encouraged to use the potty area and the toilet individually and to respect each other's privacy. Both the designated and emergency contact persons are informed about the new changes and are familiar with the reviewed policies and procedures <u>Evidence Submitted</u> Infection Control: Photographs of the new potty area have been submitted. Photographs of the toilet with new amendments have been submitted. A copy of reviewed and amended Toileting and Toilet training Policy and Procedures have been submitted. Receipts for materials and furniture bought to create the amended potty area have been submitted. A copy of the individual plan to observe child's readiness for transitioning from potty to toilet training have been submitted.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Summary Comment:	On review of the corrective, preventive actions and evidence submitted, the regulatory requirement for Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child has been met.
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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 was qualified in first aid responder for children, expiring in September 2022 and is available on the premises at all times. (2) (a) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position accessible to the care room inspected. A first aid kit is also stored outdoor in the garden area. (b) A suitably equipped first aid box for use by the adults in the event of an emergency was available to the children in the service.
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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 reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 24th of March 2022. The children verbally described to the inspector what happens during fire drills. (b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and hardwired smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment was serviced in September 2021 and the hardwired the smoke alarms were last serviced in August 2022. (4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the wall of the premises and observed by the Inspector.
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