

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022FL003					
Name of Service:	Little Sparrows Preschool					
Address of Service:	Hollyford St Patricks Terrace Donabate Co Dublin K36 XR98					
Email Address:	melissacorbett19@gmail.com					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Melissa Corbett					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒			
Date of Inspection:	1	9	1	0	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	4	PM	N/A		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 181-189 Lakeshore Drive Airside Business Park Swords Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6					
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	AM Coyle Early Years Inspector					

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

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 Sparrows Preschool is a sessional preschool/ childminding service which has been in operating in this location since September 2022 and provides sessional preschool care and education to children from 2 to 6 years of age from 09:15am until 12:15pm Monday to Friday. The service caters for a maximum of 5 children at any one time.
Premises	The service is located in a newly converted room attached to the registered providers private residence in the village of Donabate, north Dublin. There is one care room with sanitary facilities located directly off the care room. An enclosed outdoor area is available immediately outside the care room.
Staffing	The registered provider and one other staff member work directly with the children attending the service.
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 The inspection was an announced Focused Inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under two themes; Governance, and the Health, Welfare and Development of the 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 staff 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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The registered provider was the designated person in charge when the inspector arrived announced at the service on the day of inspection.
- Following a review of the service file and discussion with the registered provider it was confirmed that there was 1 new member of staff employed in the service since the last inspection. The file for the registered provider was reviewed at the fit for purpose inspection on the 10/03/2022.
- One staff file was reviewed.
- (2)(a) &(b) Two written and appropriately validated references were available for the staff member whose records was reviewed.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 1 staff member whose file was reviewed.
- (d) International police vetting was available for 1 staff member for one of the countries they had resided in outside of the Irish jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Documentary evidence was available that one staff member who work directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Non-Compliance Information:	(d)International police vetting was not available for one staff member for one of the countries they had resided in outside of the Irish jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	Corrective Actions: Staff member works in another service. The registered provider is to discuss with the staff member. Preventive Actions: Registered provider will get staff member to obtain Police vetting.
Summary Comment:	As police vetting has not been received the non-compliance under Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment has not been addressed. The registered provider must submit a copy of the processed police vetting for the staff member.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) <i>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.</i> (3) <i>Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a <u>sessional pre-school service</u> shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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.</i>	
Compliance Information:	(1) There was an adequate number of staff working with the children on the day of the inspection. (3) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection. There were 2 adults caring for 4 children aged 2 years 11 months to 3 years 7 months.

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

- The service promoted a healthy eating policy and children brought their own packed lunch with them from home. The staff members sat with the children while they had their lunch engaging the children in conversation thus promoting a relaxed and social atmosphere.
- The toilet is located directly off the care room, the children's independence was promoted with support and supervision provided as the children required it.
- Rest areas consisting of a window seat with cushions located alongside a range of reading resources in addition to a large beanbag were provided for the children to take a break from activities as they chose. Children were observed retreating to the rest areas during the inspection.
- Children's positive behaviour was rewarded through recognition and praise with minor problems handled promptly and respectfully by both staff members using distraction and redirection techniques to good effect. Children were observed being spoken to in a kind and respectful manner

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The children were cared for by the same adults in the service on a daily basis which enabled them to form secure relationships and develop their confidence within the service. The children were observed to be content and happy in the preschool room.
- Transitions were managed effectively in the service children were given a 5-minute verbal notice that activities were going to change. This provides children with a sense of predictability in their routine.
- Staff members were observed responded promptly to the children to the non-verbal and verbal cues of each child. They were observed offering choices to children's, using their first names, making eye contact, speaking in a positive tone to all children and facilitating children's choice.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The play materials in the care room were visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height this enabled the children to take and return materials as they chose and facilitates children in having independence in their learning.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	- Throughout the morning the children were observed to be happily engaged in a variety of activities. This was supported by the interest areas available including a well-resourced home area with a range of accessorial equipment to allow the children to extend their imaginative play. Tabletop materials included jigsaws and construction blocks along with transport toys. A range of arts and crafts resources including paper, crayons, pencils and paints were freely available to the children to support the children's creativity. The children's language development was enhanced through the provision of a broad range of books. - An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear and side of the service. The area is covered with artificial grass and concrete paving, a well-resourced mud kitchen, a playhouse, a sand tray and 2 low level circular tables were provided. The outdoor area had sufficient space for the children to engage in running and free movement and therefore supporting the children's gross motor play.
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Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children

Additional Significant Risk Identified

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.

Non-Compliance Information:	- The water at the sink in the children's sanitary accommodation was cold. Cold water does not support effective hand hygiene. - The cupboard underneath the sink in the sanitary accommodation which contained a large container of liquid soap was unlocked and therefore potentially accessible to the children.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>Corrective Actions:</u> - Hot water has been adjusted as it was set to low on the day of inspection. - Lock installed on cupboard. <u>Preventive Actions:</u> - Ensure thermostat is set at correct temperature in the future. - Make sure lock is always on.
Summary Comment	The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child has been reviewed and accepted. The non-compliance has been addressed.