

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017LS501
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Name of Service:	Triinu's Little Fairyland Childminding
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Address of Service:	Cappanarrow, Camross, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
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Eircode:	R32 RX81
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Name of Registered Provider:	Triinu Tamm
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date of Inspection:	20/08/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	4
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co Offaly.
Inspection undertaken by:	K. Murphy
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

A child-minding service is provided to children aged between 6 months and 6 years of age. The child-minding service is located on the ground floor of the home of the registered provider. The children attending have the use of the home including the kitchen/living/ dining room, a dedicated playroom and a sleep room. Set down and onsite parking facilities are available. A separate outdoor play area is located to the rear of the dwelling. The service is located in a rural area near the village of Camross, Co. Laois.

Staffing

The registered provider was present and working directly with the children on the day of inspection. An additional staff member who is employed to provide support for specified periods during the week was present.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 -

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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 co-operation 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.

(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 registered provider was available as required.

(b)

The registered provider was present for the duration of the inspection.

Two files were reviewed, and the following was noted:

(2)(a)

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One written reference was available in respect of the registered provider and two written validated references were available in respect of the support staff from past employers.

(b)

One written reference was available in respect of the registered provider from a source other than a previous employer.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the registered provider and the support staff. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was available in respect of the registered provider who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

The registered provider held a qualification at level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

(8)(b)

A second person familiar with the operation of the service was available to provide assistance to the registered provider in the event of 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.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

There were four children attending the service being supervised by the registered provider. A support staff was employed to care for the registered providers own children.

(b)

There were no more than two children under the age of fifteen months in the care of the registered provider at the time of the inspection.

(c)

A working telephone was available on the premises.

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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

(1)(a)

The children were observed to enjoy free play, choosing their own activities and supervised by the adults present. All meals and snacks for the children were provided from home. Individual routines for each child were adhered to with rest, sleep, food, beverages and nappy changing provided on an individual need's basis.

The adults present were familiar with each child and their personality. There was an emphasis on continuity of care with children enrolled in the service since they were young babies. The adults present were observed to be warm and kind towards the children in their care. The adults used soft language tones and the children's individual names when attending to the children. Conversations and interactions between the children and the adults were observed during the inspection. Good teamwork was observed between the adults. The registered provider stated that there was a strong emphasis on verbal communication as a means of providing information and updates relating to the children and the activities in the service to parents.

The children had access to the living area within the home which incorporated the kitchen, dining area and living space. A separate playroom was also available to the children. The playroom was equipped with developmentally appropriate experiences for the children. Areas of interest including small world, library and a toy kitchen were noted in the playroom. Materials included play dough, dolls, buggies, puzzles, blocks, trucks, animals and fine motor skill toys including pegboards, jigsaws and shape sorters. Low level tables and chairs and low-level shelving with equipment and materials were accessible to the children.

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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-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(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.

(2) A registered provider-

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment were provided which incorporated areas with toys and equipment for arts and crafts, home corners, interest areas and tabletop activities.

(b)

Soft furnishings provided suitable and adequate rest facilities in the premises. A separate sleep room was available in the service equipped with two standard cots.

(2)(a)

A separate enclosed outdoor play area was located to the rear of the dwelling. A high-level wooden fence secured the perimeter. An artificial grass surface area was in place. The area was equipped with a large activity frame with a variety of children's bikes, trikes and rockers.

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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

All snacks and meal were provided by the parents. Healthy eating was encouraged. Additional fresh fruit, dairy products and crackers were available to the children and provided by the registered provider. Potable water and milk were available to the children.

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 service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

Supplies of paper hand towel and liquid soap were available in the sanitary accommodation. The water temperature at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation was recorded at 30°C. The premises was ventilated by openable windows. Foot operated pedal bins were noted in the premises for the hygienic disposal of waste. All toys and materials were easily cleanable. Cleaning schedules and records were in place.

Administration of Medication:

No medicine was administered during the inspection. A record book was available in the service to record details relating to the administration of medicine should it be required. Temperature reducing medication was available and stored out of the reach of children.

Safe Sleep:

The room temperature of the sleep room was recorded at 19°C. Children under the age of two years slept in cots with each child's colour, position and breathing checked and recorded every ten minutes in a sleep log.

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Fire Safety:

Emergency exits routes were unobstructed. A designated fire assembly point was located to the side of the service.

Outing:

The registered provider confirmed that outings are not undertaken from the service.

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 and support staff were qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

A first aid box was available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the kitchen.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to children in the childminding 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 firefighting 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 for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 15 July 2024.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment in the premises was serviced in February 2024. The smoke alarms in the premises were serviced in July 2024.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service. The expiry date noted was 13 November 2024.

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Part IX - Inspection and Enforcement

Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.

Compliance Information

The registered provider furnished all information as reasonably required by the Agency for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations.