

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC245
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Name of Service:	Little Village LTD
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Address of Service:	Newcestown, Co Cork
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Email Address:	Littlevillageplayschool3@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ann Buckley
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Type of Service Registered:	Sessional	☒
	Part-Time	☒

Date(s) of Inspection:	2	3	0	6	2	0	2	1
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	22	PM	6
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Office St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork
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Inspection undertaken by:	C Stokes
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
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Description of Service	This part time day care service is located in prefabricated building to the rear of the national school in Newcestown. There were 22 children present on the day of inspection. A service is provided to children aged between two years and eight months to 5 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.15 am and 12.15 for ECCE and 9.20 to 1.45 hours for part time day care. A registered school age service is also provided from 2-3pm.
Premises	The service comprised of one playroom and an outdoor play area to the side and rear.
Staffing	There were 4 adults present on the day of inspection and all adults were working directly with the children. The registered provider is not service based.
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. 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 Person in Charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (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—
- (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.

Compliance Information:

(2) (c), (d) The person in charge confirmed that one adult had commenced working in the service since the previous inspection. Garda vetting was on file for this new member of the team and Police vetting was not required.

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.
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Compliance Information:

(1) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff was working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of the inspection, there were 4 adults working directly with 22 pre-school children.

(8) The person in charge confirmed there were always at least 2 adults on the premises and this was in accordance with the records of attendance.

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:

- Snack was observed at 10.30am approx., where the children returned to the playroom after outdoor play, washed their hands and set the tables.
- Snacks provided by the parents were stored in the fridge and were served on plastic plates.
- Drinking water was poured by the children who were the designated helpers for everybody.
- The adults were observed to assist, support and foster independence among the children during snack time.
- Snacks included sandwiches, crackers, fruit and the service had a reward system of awarding stickers to those who drank all their water.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- Adults working in the service were reported to operate in partnership with parents and the service has developed new methods of communicating with parents in light of COVID 19 restrictions, including text, emails and telephone appointments. While there is reduced face to face contact with parents, the service holds telephone meetings with parents. This facility was available to parents from 12.30 to 1.30 daily.
- The adults maintained a written daily record regarding the times in and out of each child and adult that attended the service that also facilitated contact tracing should there be a case of Covid-19 in the service.
- The person in charge advised that parents have been provided with updates to policies and procedures by email.
- Adults working in the service demonstrated sensitivity for the children in how they approached and helped the children adapt to the enhanced hand hygiene and other measures related to COVID-19.
- Adults were observed in the indoor area during snack and reading time and in outdoor area to support the children in an encouraging and engaging manner.
- The person in charge informed the inspector that the children carried out many of their play activities outdoors.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The revised room layout and materials available were sufficient for supporting their learning and were suited to the children's age and stage of development.
- The removal of certain toys and play materials as a result of Covid 19 measures did not detract in any way from the experience of the children in the setting.
- Certain items such as dress up were available on request and washed afterwards.
- The indoor area was laid out in defined areas including art, small world, sandpit, shop, home area, dress up, puzzle and game area, book and soft area. There was open-shelving available in the playrooms with play materials and items clearly laid out so that the children could identify and access them easily and independently.
- The prefabricated building was situated in an enclosed area that was secured by high fencing and a locked gate. The outdoor play area was situated to the side and rear of the prefabricated building and easily facilitated activities such as use of ride on equipment and imaginary play by the children.
- There was an emphasis on outdoor play in the setting and the area provided a multitude of experiences to the children including a sand pit area for digging, a planting area; mud kitchen, bug hotel, chalkboard and paint on wall area and ride on toys. There was a unit for the storage of additional toys and play equipment e.g. loose parts. Equipment is rotated in use.

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 external door was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the preschool.
- The cleaning agents and equipment was inaccessible to the children in a cleaning cupboard inside the front door.
- Records were available of the cleaning conducted in the service.
- There were no issues of electrical cables or flexes being accessible to the preschool children.
- The outdoor area was secured and no hazards were observed. This area was private, for the sole use of the children in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	- The toys and play materials were observed to be safe and in good condition. INFECTION CONTROL: - The adults confirmed that systems were in place for those working in the service to confirm that they feel well on a daily basis and they have received training to understand the requirement to self-isolate where appropriate. - PPE kit were available including aprons, gloves and masks and an isolation area had been identified. - There was an appropriate level of support regarding hand hygiene and tissue etiquette. - There was an adequate supply of hot water, liquid soap, paper towels and lidded bins for the disposal of paper towels in the children's sanitary area. - All windows (x6) in the playroom were opened for the circulation of fresh air and the playroom was adequately ventilated. - There was a fridge for the safe storage of perishable foods in the service. - The low level tables were cleaned down thoroughly prior to snack time with disinfectant spray and disposable cloths. SAFE SLEEP: - The service had a supply of stackable beds but the person in charge advised that they were not in use over the course of this year. ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION: - No medication was observed to be administered on the day of inspection. FIRE SAFETY: - No issues regarding fire safety were observed.
Non-Compliance Information:	GENERAL SAFETY: - One blind cord was not secured in the playroom as the tension device had come away from the window surround. Although this area was not easily accessible to a child, the blind cord may pose a hazard of strangulation. INFECTION CONTROL: - A nappy changing unit had been installed in the children's toilet since the previous inspection. However, a separate sink for hand washing for the adult changing nappies was not available. This may lead to the spread of infection among adults and children using the same sink for hand washing.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: The registered provider responded on the 10.09.21 to state that the blind cord has been secured. INFECTION CONTROL: The registered provider responded on the 10.09.21 to state that the nappy changing policy has been updated to ensure a thorough practice of infection control and the cleaning down of the sink after the adult who changed nappies used it and prior to its use by children. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: The registered provider responded on the 10.09.21 to state that the staff will complete a monthly check on the blind cords to ensure they are secure. INFECTION CONTROL: The registered provider responded on the 10.09.21 to state that the use of the sink jointly by children and adults has been documented and the practices around this have been updated in line with infection control in an updated nappy change policy document. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> INFECTION CONTROL: The registered provider responded on the 10.09.21 with a copy of the updated nappy changing policy.
Summary Comment:	The documentation submitted relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.