

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC245
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Name of Service:	Little Village LTD
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Address of Service:	Newcestown, Bandon, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P72 VY04
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Buckley
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	09/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	2
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Admin Building, St Marys Health Campus, Cork, T23x440
Inspection undertaken by:	C Stokes
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	N/A
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Description of service

This part-time day-care service is located in prefabricated building on the grounds of the national school in Newcestown in a rural area of county Cork. This service is registered to provide care to children aged between two years 6 years, the setting currently has children aged 3-4 years enrolled. The service is registered to open from Monday to Friday between 9am and 2.15pm for ECCE and for part-time day care. A registered school age service is also provided. The setting is play-based in its approach to early childhood care and education.

Staffing

The registered provider was service based for the inspection. The setting is run by the person in charge and staff who all have major awards in Early childhood Care and Education at level 8 on the National Qualification Framework.

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-compliance from re occurring.

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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, person in charge, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.*

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(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 ensured there was a named person in charge (PIC) of operating the service.
- (b) In addition, there was a named deputy person in charge (DPIC). The person in charge was present on the day of inspection and stated that the PIC or DPIC are always on the premises.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place.
- (2) The staff recruitment files were examined as part of this inspection.
- (a) When the recruitment files of all 3 adults was reviewed two written and appropriately validated references were available in respect of 4 past employers
- (b) Two written and appropriately validated references were available in respect of 2 sources other than past employers.
- (c) A completed record of Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau was available for the 3 adults.
- (d) Police vetting was required and available for 1 adult who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period exceeding 6 months.
- (4) A certificate of a major award in Early Childhood care and education at QQI level 8, on the National Qualification framework was on file for 3 adults.

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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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (2) The care room met the adult/child ratio of 1 to 11 with 22 children and 3 adults present on the day of inspection during the sessional hours and 2 adults catering for 2 children availing of part time care from 12.15 to 2pm.

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

- The morning snacks were served at 10.45am and water was observed to be readily available. Plastic plates were handed out for snack-time. Staff were observed to sit and interact with the children during snack times to make it a social occasion.
- The children in the preschool room were independent using the toilet and staff supported these children appropriately, with gentle reminders for handwashing.
- A quiet area in the preschool room was available for rest beside the library soft matting and cushions.
- Children were observed to have access to the outdoor area twice for mobility on the day of inspection.
- There was a calm and engaging atmosphere in the rooms. Staff were observed to interact in a caring manner with the children building their sense of safety and security in the setting.

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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.

Compliance Information

- (a) There were adequate and suitable play facilities indoors. The indoor environment was child friendly, bright, and spacious and laid out in special interest areas with materials accessible to the children. Interest areas included a creative area with arts and crafts, messy area including sand and water play, play dough; a library with soft area; home corner; construction area, tabletop toys including small world, puzzles, threading, pegboards; imaginative area with shop and playhouse; and transport area. Child sized tables and chairs were available.
The outdoor area had interest areas and equipment including bikes, ride on toys, mud kitchen, sand and water play.
- (b) There were adequate and suitable facilities for a child to rest, there was a soft area with matting and cushions available during the sessional hours and for children availing of part-time care, two stackable beds were available for facilitating sleep.

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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

- The service offered meals and snacks provided by the parents/guardians in accordance with sessional and part-time day-care guidelines at 10.45 am and 1pm daily.
- A fridge is in place for the storage of perishable snacks and meals.
- The registered provider outlined that parents/guardians provide all the food and were advised of the services healthy eating guidelines.
- Food observed on the day of inspection included wraps, crackers, sandwiches, fruit, cheese, and yoghurts. The food observed was suitable, nutritious, varied, and balanced.

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:

- Blind cords were observed to be secured.
- Internal and external doors were secured on the day of inspection.
- Emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- No cables were within reach of children on the day of inspection.
- The outdoor area was observed to be free of safety concerns or hazards.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing with thermostatically controlled hot water, soap and paper towels for drying was observed on the day of inspection.
- Lidded pedal operated bins were available in the children's toilets for paper towel disposal.

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Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication was not observed at the time of inspection. However, the person in charge advised that one child has a nut allergy and their parents have provided an auto-injector pen and training in its use to the staff.

Safe Sleep:

- Stackable beds were available for sleep as needed and children were appropriately monitored during sleep time.

Fire Safety:

- No fire safety issues were observed on the day of inspection. Fire doors were not obstructed, and fire drills were conducted monthly for the safe evacuation of the service.

Outing:

- No outings were conducted on the day of inspection.

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 ensured that a person trained in first aid for children is, always, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The registered provider ensured that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.

(b) was available to the children attending the pre-school service always.

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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) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept of the fire drills, the most recent drill was dated 24 October 2023.
- (b) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept of the firefighting equipment. The service record indicated the fire extinguishers were maintained in February 2023 and the fire alarm was most recently serviced on 2 October 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display at the fire point in the room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance for 22 children attending on a sessional basis valid until 27 March 2024