

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015FL058

Name of Service: Charlie's Childcare

Address of Service: Presbyterian Church Hall
Malahide
Co Dublin
K36 PE80

Email Address: Ronniec@charlieschildcare.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ms Ronnie Carroll

Type of Service Registered: **Part-Time** ☒

Date of Inspection: 2 4 0 3 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 15 PM

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Child and Family Agency
180-189 Lakeshore Drive
Airside Business Park
Swords
Co Dublin

Inspection undertaken by: AM Coyle
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	Charlies' childcare was established in this location in 2018 as a privately owned Early Years' Service. The service provides Part time preschool care and education to children from 2 years 6 months until they commence attendance at primary school. The service operates from 08:00am to 1 pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) scheme.
Premises	Charlies Childcare operates from a hall to the rear of the Presbyterian church in Malahide village. The service has exclusive use of the hall and adjacent sanitary accommodation during the operational hours of the service.
Staffing	There were 2 staff members working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly with the children attending the service but was present in the service on the day of inspection.
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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, 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—
- (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:

Following a review of the service file three staff files were reviewed.

(2) (a)&(b) The following references were available:

- Two validated written references were available for 3 members of staff employed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 3 members of staff.

(d) Not applicable as following a review of the staff files there was no documentary evidence that the staff members had resided outside of the Irish state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available that 3 staff members whose files were reviewed and who were working 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 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

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection. There were 2 adults working directly with 15 children aged 3 years 2 months to 4 years 8 months on the day of inspection.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

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:

The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and wellbeing was facilitated on the day of inspection.

BASIC NEEDS:

- The children attending the service on a sessional basis bring their own packed lunch with them to the service. The children attending the service on a part time basis were provided with the option of bringing their own lunch or having it provided by the service. The children enjoyed sandwiches, fruit and yogurt which they brought with them from home. The children's water bottles were available to them should they require a drink during the session.
- The bathroom which was specifically used by the children attending the Early Years' Service was in a corridor directly off the care room. The children were accompanied to the bathroom by a staff member.
- There was sufficient space in the care room for the children to move freely and play.
- The staff and children were familiar with each other, and the children were observed to seek out staff members when they required support or were upset.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT: - The play materials and equipment in the care room were stored on tables which facilitated the children to select toys and activities of their choice. - The following resources were available to the children, transport toys, musical instruments, art resources, kitchen play equipment, shop resources, dolls, small world equipment in addition to a range of books. - An enclosed outdoor area located immediately outside the care room was available to the children. The area was surfaced with concrete and grass, a slide, ride on toys in addition to large plastic blocks were available to the children. - The play materials and equipment are removed from the pre-school room at the completion of each session in line with the requirements of the church hall who own the premises.
Non-Compliance Information:	BASIC NEEDS: The layout of the care room did not encourage independence or choice for the children in initiating play. The service adhered to a programme of activities and when it was time to move to the next activity the play materials and resources were placed in the boxes for storage until the next day. This restricted children's play and limits the opportunities to initiate play.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> BASIC NEEDS: - The toys will be left out for longer allowing for more child-led play through the care time in the centre. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> BASIC NEEDS: - Staff will be reminded of the importance of this and Managers will do checks to ensure compliance.
Summary Comment	The actions as stated by the registered provider in the corrective and preventative actions addresses the noncompliance identified.

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:	INFECTION CONTROL:
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

- The staff in the service were familiar with the processes to be followed in the event of an adult or child becoming symptomatic of covid 19 whilst attending the service.
- Children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times, such as before eating, after using the toilet and on returning to the service after outdoor play.
- The premise was in a clean and hygienic condition. There was a process in place for the cleaning of toys and equipment daily.
- Warm water, Liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at all wash hand basins. Hand sanitiser was also provided throughout the service.
- An area has been identified and is available in the event of an adult or child becoming unwell during the day. Personal protective equipment to include; masks, single use disposable gloves and aprons were available in the event that they are required.
- The service was well ventilated through open windows.

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:

(2)(a) &(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available for the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Non-Compliance Information:

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that a staff member who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training in first aid for children was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

CORRECTIVE ACTION

(1) While there was a staff member on site with up-to-date Paediatric First Aid training, full FAR training has been booked in.

PREVENTIVE ACTION

(1) Managers will audit and ensure that a staff member has full, in date FAR training at all times.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 25 - First Aid

Summary Comment:	Evidence was submitted of FAR training undertaken by a number of staff on 20/8/22. This has provided assurances that an adequate number of staff are trained in FAR and are available to children when required.
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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 record of the monthly fire drills completed in the service were available for inspection. The most recent record available was dated 17/02/2022. (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in the care room.
Non-Compliance Information:	(b) An up-to-date maintenance record for the smoke alarms or fire extinguishers was not available for inspection.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> (b) The manager was reminded of the location of the up-to-date maintenance record for the smoke alarms or fire extinguishers so that they can be presented on the day of an inspection. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> (b) The manager on site will always know where such documents are located in future. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> Maintenance records for the smoke alarms and fire extinguishers.
Summary Comment:	The registered provider has submitted the maintenance records for both the smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. Both records indicate that the maintenance checks for both the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms had been completed in advance of the inspection.

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Additional Significant Risk Identified

Regulation 8-Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C (2) OF THE Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information:	The registered provider did not inform the agency that the person in charge of the service had changed.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> (b) A change of Circumstances Form has been completed. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> (b) The registered provider will ensure that the correct documentation for changes of circumstances is submitted in a timely fashion in future. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> Copy of change in circumstances form.
Summary Comment	The actions as stated by the registered provider in the corrective and preventative actions addresses the noncompliance identified.