

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Not applicableTUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY009
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Name of Service:	Amy's House
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Address of Service:	Churchview, Claregalway, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91WR58
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Name of Registered Provider:	Hazel Curran
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	27/06/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F kelly
Title:	Early Years Inspector.

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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

Description of service

This childcare service was opened in 2005. The service is located in the Claregalway village, Co Galway. It comprises of 3 playrooms and an outdoor play area to the rear of the building. It offers a full day care, part time and sessional childcare service programme from 7.30am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday.

Staffing

The service manager is the person in charge and is on the premises on a daily basis. On the day of inspection, they were 3 childcare workers, which included the register provider.

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

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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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19 . however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 9 and 23.

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. 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.

Additional Information

This inspection was triggered by information received by information received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

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*

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(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 manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider and the manager were on the premises.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there were 5 members of staff employed in the service ,which included a cook and a relief staff member.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 5 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(b) There were 7 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than the previous last employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

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- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for the 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) All adults working directly with children have obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4)(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for the 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months. This disclosure was not available in english, the document must be translated into english by a reputable source.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (4)(d) The staff member is no longer working in the service.
- All police vetting and other documents will be available in English and translated by a reputable source.

Summary Comment

The actions were reviewed, the non-compliance identified under regulation (9) (4)(d) have been adequately addressed.

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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.

(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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the day, there were 5 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning.

(2) At 10.00 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms was in operation.

– Playroom there was 1 adult caring for 5 children aged between 2.5 years of age and 4 years of age.

(8)(a)

On review of the staff roster ,it indicated that the adult and child ratios were maintained on dates reviewed in May.

On the 27th of May , 11 children were signed in at 11.30am with 3 staff supervising them.

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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

BASIC NEEDS:

- The service supplied the main meal of the day and the parents provided the snack for the children. The main meal of the day was spaghetti bolognese , the children were brought to the dedicated dining room for all their meals and snacks. The staff member stayed with the children and assisted the children when required.
- Children have their nappies changed when required and not just at dedicated times during the day.
- Staff allow children to sleep or rest when they're tired and not just as a dedicated time. Staff recognise children's individual cues of tiredness and this was observed in the playroom when a staff member recognised that a child's needed sleep, the child was put down to sleep on stackable bed in a playroom that was converted into a sleep room and for children over 2 years of age, the staff member stayed with them until she settled.
- The privacy and the dignity of the children was respected at all times during the nappy changing and toileting.
- Children had opportunities to move freely around the playroom , during the inspection ,the children could decide what activity they wanted to engage in and could move freely around the playroom.
- There were no behavioural management issues observed during the inspections, the staff present were observed to speak to the children in calm voices and interacted with the children in a positive manner.
- Children were praised and encouraged during the session, on one occasion ,a child had completed a difficult puzzle and the staff member was heard praising the child of their accomplishment.

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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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Garda vetting was available for 1 staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

To ensure all Garda vetting is dated with 3 years, it will be reviewed in September each year.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

On the 03/07/2024, the service manager submitted a copy of the outstanding Garda vetting disclosure dated the 01/07/2024.

Summary Comment

The evidence and the action were reviewed and the non-compliance identified under regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.