

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015GY009

Name of service: Amy's House

Address of service: Churchview, Claregalway, Co Galway.

Name Of registered provider: Hazel Curran

Type of service registered:	Sessional	☒	Part-Time	☒	Drop-In	☐
	Full Day Care	☒	Childminding	☐	Temporary	☐

Date(s) of Inspection: 29/09/2022

Number of pre-school children present:	AM	11	PM	
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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.
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly
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	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. The service caters for children aged from birth to six years of age.
Staffing	The service manager is the person in charge and is on the premises on a daily basis. On the day of inspection, there were 5 childcare workers and a chef working on the premises, which included the register provider.
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. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following: • Previous inspection history • Any information received in relation to the service Findings on inspection are based on: • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff This inspection was <i>unannounced</i> and focused on the area of <i>Governance/ Health, Welfare and Development of Child</i>. 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.

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 II - Registration and Register**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.

Noncompliance information

(1)

The registered provider did not notify Tusla, Early years inspectorate in writing that there was a change in the person in charge of the pre-school.

Corrective & preventive action submitted by the registered provider**Corrective and preventive action**

The relevant forms for the change in the person in charge of the pre-school was submitted to Tusla, early years inspectorate. Procedures were in place to notify Tusla prior to any changes in the future.

Summary comment

The regulatory requirement of this regulation have been achieved.

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
- (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.

(7)A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

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 was on the premises. Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there were 2 new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection. These files were reviewed on the day of inspection. (2)(a) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service. (b) There were 2 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 were available for the staff working in the service. (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. (7) The manager on the day confirmed to the inspector that they had given a copy of updated policies and procedures for the service to the staff members. Evidence of additional training that the staff attended (staff induction and return to work training) was also available for inspection.
Noncompliance information	(4)(d) Police Vetting disclosure was not available for the 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months. It is acknowledged that the service manager provided evidence that an application for same was made on the 30/09/2022.
Corrective & preventive action submitted by the registered provider	<u>Corrective and preventive action</u> An application form for the police vetting procedures was submitted and are awaiting reply. The staff member is no longer employed in the service. Procedures are in place to ensure all staff are appropriately vetting prior to starting employment.

	Supporting documentation submitted Photographic evidence of the application form was submitted and reviewed by the early year's inspectorate. Written acknowledgement that the staff member is no longer working in the service.
Summary comment	As the staff member is no longer working in the service, the regulatory requirement has been achieved.

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) 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 11 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 7 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon. (2) At 10.00 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation. - Toddler room, Seomra Beag there was 1 adult caring for 5 children aged between 1 year and 2.5 years of age. - ECCE playroom, there were 2 adults caring for 6 children aged between 2.5 years and 5 years of age.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;
 - (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;
 - (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;
 - (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;
 - (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;
 - (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;
 - (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;
 - (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;
 - (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.
- (2) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the particulars specified in subparagraphs (a), (d), (e) and (f) of paragraph (1).
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance information

- (1) The registered provider developed, maintained and retained records about each child attending the service.

The records contained all the appropriate information required to support the care provided by the service to each child.

A sample of the children's records were reviewed by the inspectors, of the 13 children attending the service, a total of 4 records were reviewed, all 4 records contained the necessary elements (a-i) as outlined above.

- (2) The records in writing referred to in paragraph (1)(2) were open for inspection by parent of that child, employee who is authorised by the registered provider and the inspector as an authorised person.
- (4) All records were retained for the required period of 2 years from the date on which the child ceases to attend the service.

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

- Children attending on a sessional basis bought their own snacks which consisted of sandwiches, crackers, fruit, cheese, and yogurts. A hot meal of pasta, chicken and vegetables was served as the main meal of the day. Each child had water to drink. The children's drink was left on a tray within easy reach of the children. The younger children in the Toddler room were observed on numerous occasions, getting a drink from their own drink containers without the assistance from the adult in the room.
- Children had enough time to eat their snack and lunches. The children in the playrooms sat at low level tables and chairs for their snack /mealtimes. When the children were finished eating their lunches were able to engage in a different activity like reading until the group were all finished.
- Toilet training was based on the child's developmental level. Children had unrestricted access to the toilet and staff offered help when needed.
- Nappies were changed when needed and in a timely manner. A staff member was observed asking a young child, if they would like to get their nappy changed, the young child agreed and happily left the room with the staff member.
- Hand washing after toileting, outdoor play and before mealtimes was supervised. This was observed prior to snack times.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax when they were tired. Staff recognised children's individual cues of tiredness indicating their need for sleep and rest.
- Adults were observed helping children to find solutions, talking to them, getting down to their level and making eye contact with them. This was observed during the session, when issues arose with the sharing of toys.
- The children were observed playing in the outdoor play area during the inspection.

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 19 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, or

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.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or

Compliance information

(1)

- (a) The indoor play areas were designed and organised to accommodate the children's varying interest and developmental needs. Materials and equipment were displayed so that they were visible and ready accessible by the children. There were different interest areas provided where equipment and toys of similar use were arranged together
The Toddlers room(18 months to 3 years) had open shelf units ,with a selection of jigsaws and puzzles suitable for the age and ability of the children attending. The children were observed taking puzzles from this unit , bring them to a nearby table , playing with them and without any prompts from the staff present bring them back to where they got them. The play observed during the session was very child centred and the staff present facilitated the play rather than lead the activity.
- (b) The service had 1 dedicated sleep rooms; the sleep room had 7 standard cots but only 3 were in use to accommodate the children aged under 2 years of age that required sleep.
The children aged over 2 years slept on stackable beds in a playroom. This room had 6 stackable beds , each child had an allocated bed with sheets and a small blanket.
The blinds were closed, the lights returned off making this room conducive to sleep.
Children not requiring sleep were accommodated in another playroom or could go outside to play. Staff sat with the children in their playroom while they slept .
Staff provide for each child's comfort and need for sleep, rest and relaxation was

met. The rest and sleep facilities and equipment provided by the service were suitable for the age the development stage and the individual needs of the children using the service.

One child on the day that did not require sleep was observed been cared for in the front playroom.

(2)(a) Children were observed playing in the outdoor play area for the period of time during the inspection. Each age group had a dedicated play time in the outdoor play area throughout the day.

(3)(a) The outdoor play areas adjacent to the playrooms were suitable, safe and secure to prevent a child from gaining unsupervised access to dangers and to prevent unauthorised access to the outdoor area. The outdoor area was divided into 2 separate areas, The grassed areas included a large sand pit, climbing frame.

The soft matted areas allowed for children to use ride on toys, kitchen area and work bench.