

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



Tusla Identifier:	TU2015KE046
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Name of Service:	Giggles Playschool
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Address of Service:	15 The Grove, Liffey Hall Newbridge, Co. Kildare W12 C584
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Email Address:	gigglesplaygroup@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Carol Dee
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Type of Service Registered:	Sessional	☒
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Date of Inspection:	1	6	0	9	2	0	2	1
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	16	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Ballymore Eustace road Naas, Co. Kildare W91 X38W
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Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan
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	Giggles Playgroup was established in 2005 as a privately run childcare service for pre-school children aged 2 years 6 months to 6 years by the present registered provider. The service provides sessional childcare and education to children from 9.00am to 12.00pm daily for 38 weeks of the school year and the setting can cater for a maximum of 20 preschool children. Learning is facilitated through an emergent interest play based curriculum in the service.
Premises	The service is located in a residential area on the outskirts of an urban area. It is located in a purpose-built building adjacent to the registered providers domestic dwelling and has a large secure outdoor area to the rear of the property.
Staffing	Giggles playschool employs three childcare staff including the registered provider. The registered provider works directly with the preschool children. One adult working in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and one adult at Level 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education as per the National Framework of Qualifications.
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 registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "
- (6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."
- (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.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Compliance Information:	A sampling process was used to review the records. The record of two adults recruited since the last inspection were reviewed. (1) (a) The Registered Provider ensured that the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required. (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection and staff rosters indicated that the designated person or deputy is available on the premises at all times. (2) (a) Written and verified employer references were available in respect of one employee working in the service. (b) Written and verified references from a reputable source were available in respect of two employees working in the service. (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for two staff employed by the service. (d) Not applicable, as no adult had lived outside the state for a period of more than 6 months as an adult. (4) Two employees working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. (6)(a) Not applicable, as the Registered Provider confirmed that a declaration letter from the Minister was not required for any employee in the service. (6A) One adult was employed by the service from the Accessibility and Inclusion model scheme to support a child to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme. (7)(a) The registered provider stated that the staff members were provided with information, induction and training with regard to the policies, procedures and statements of the service as specified in Schedule 5; this is underpinned by the staff training policy of the service.
Non-Compliance Information:	(2)(a) A written and verified employer reference was not available in respect of one employee working in the service. (4) One employee working directly with children attending the service did not hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.
Corrective & Preventive Action and evidence submitted by the Registered Provider:	The registered provider stated in the written response submitted: Corrective actions: (2)(a) A written and verified reference from a reputable source is on file. (4) The employee has received the official certificate. Preventive actions: There were no preventive actions received.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

	Evidence: (2)(a) Document (4) Two documents.
Summary Comment:	The written response and documents submitted by the registered provider have been reviewed. Regulatory compliance is now met.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information:	The registered provider ensured that the required written policies, procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 were in place in the service. The content of the following policies was reviewed and had been updated to meet Covid-19 requirements and obligations for a childcare setting: • Risk Management Policy • Infection Control Policy
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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)(3)
The registered provider ensured there was at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.
The registered provider always ensured that there was a minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 were maintained as outlined in Table 1:

Table 1.

Room	Type of Service	Age Range in Years	Children Present	Adults Present	Minimum number of adults required
Giggles Playschool	Sessional	2-6 years	16	3	2

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 of Infants and Children

The service had a healthy eating policy; children's lunches were observed to be nutritious and healthy. Children could access their drinks as they wished. Snack time in the service was flexible and child led to encourage each child's independence. It was dependent on when the children were ready to eat. Staff members sat with the children during snack time and were attentive to their needs. Conversations and interactions between the children and staff were observed to be relaxed and fun. The children were encouraged to be independent, and they were supported by the staff members to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development including hand washing, toileting and caring for their belongings; assistance was given when needed. Waterproof outdoor clothing, protective bibs and aprons were provided for the children to wear so they could participate in all messy play activities indoors and outdoors irrespective of the weather.

Pre-school children were observed enjoying freedom of movement in the service where the emphasis was on outdoor play. The indoor environment was available to the children, but they preferred to play in the outdoor area.

A comfortable cosy rest area was available in a log cabin for the children if they wanted to take a break, rest and sit quietly.

The staff members were very experienced and confident looking after preschool children and demonstrated an advanced knowledge of the management of children's behaviour where there was an emphasis on praise and encouragement to promote positive behaviour.

Supporting relationships around children.

The children were cared for by the same adults who enabled them to form secure relationships, attachments and confidence within the service. On the day of the inspection the staff members were observed responding promptly to the non-verbal and verbal cues of each child. They were observed offering choices to children, using their name, making eye contact, speaking in a positive tone to the children and facilitating age-appropriate choice. Children were encouraged to take part and afforded opportunities to make choices. Individual preferences were accommodated as to what and how long children wished to engage with specific chosen activities. The staff members praised each child present for their involvement in activities.

The service has good engagement with parents/guardians and has implemented procedures and supports to meet specific Covid-19 pandemic requirements.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Parents are provided with a brief update when the children are being collected. This is done in the outdoors in a socially distanced manner with everybody wearing masks. The registered provider uses telephone and text to the parents as alternative methods of communication; face to face meetings are arranged by appointment as necessary.

Physical & Material Environment

The curriculum was child led based on the children's natural sense of curiosity, inquiry and emerging interests. In order to facilitate this approach and to meet covid-19 compliance requirements the registered provider developed the outdoor area to primarily meet the learning needs of the pre-school children. The outdoor area was very spacious and had defined areas of interest; It incorporated natural resources to support children's physical development, their play experience and learning. These included a mud kitchen, swings, slides, a wooden space for children to ride trikes and push along scooters, steps and climbing spaces to support gross motor development space for ball sport, sand and water play, a planting and digging area, spaces to hide, and lots of opportunities for imaginative play.

The indoor preschool room was available to the children and had defined areas of interest; it was well resourced and presented. There was a home corner, mark making/ easel with paper and paint, space for process art, bricks and blocks, construction area, library corner, jigsaws, puzzles and small world area.

It was equipped with low level tables and chairs, low level shelving with equipment and materials accessible to the pre-school children. The layout and the presentation of the resources in the playroom enabled the children to choose their activities based on their natural sense of inquiry and interests. It was noted that the children preferred the outdoor area.

There was predictability and routine to the morning and the children responded to this very positively. All the children attending on the day of the inspection were observed to be busy, engaged and very happy in their environment.

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 entrance door to the service was controlled by the registered provider to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The registered provider documented the inspectors visit to the service on arrival.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection control.

Prior to the reopening of the service following the first pandemic lockdown the registered provider had completed specific Covid-19 infection control training to ensure on-going adherence to current practices and to implement the supplementary specific infection control guidance relating to Covid-19.

The registered provider was aware of the procedures to be followed in the event a staff member or child exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19. A separate area had been identified to accommodate a child who may present with any symptom of Covid-19 while attending the service.

The service had one designated entrance and physical distancing was adhered to during arrival and departure times.

Records were maintained of the children and staff attending daily and for any person entering the service to facilitate contact tracing in the event of an outbreak of infection.

The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Steps were taken to prevent the spread of infection with the removal of any toys or materials that could not be effectively cleaned, using good environmental hygiene practices, supervision of the children's hand washing and respiratory hygiene. There was an outdoor sink in the outdoor area with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels; children were supervised by an adult while handwashing to ensure that they washed their hands for at least 20 seconds and they washed their hands on arrival to the premises prior to commencing their mornings activities.

Written cleaning schedules were displayed and maintained for the room environments including the outside play equipment with an increase in the frequency and extent of cleaning regimes. These included:

- High contact areas
- All toys and equipment
- Outside play equipment
- Sanitary areas

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying indoors and also outdoors. Hand sanitiser was available in the pre-school room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Foot pedal operated bins were in place in the service to facilitate the hygienic disposal of used paper hand towel and tissues. Plastic aprons and gloves were available also.

Administration of medication.

Written parental consent for the administration of medication, including temperature reducing medication was available; the adults were familiar with the safe procedures in place to administer medication to a child if the need arises. Written care plans were in place for children requiring medication for medical conditions. Medication was stored safely.

Safe sleep.

A comfortable rest area was available in the outdoor play space for any preschool child who wished to rest or take a break from activities.

Fire Safety.

Staff members were familiar with safe evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency occurring on the premises. The fire exits in the service were clearly marked and unobstructed.

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 was trained in first aid for children and was immediately available to the children attending the service. (2)(a)(b) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the playroom and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
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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 firefighting 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 written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was in June 2021. (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were last serviced on 21st September 2021 and 23rd August 2021 respectively. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.
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