

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LH012								
Name of Service:	Cala's Cabin								
Address of Service:	18 Forest Hill Drogheda Co. Louth								
Email Address:	derekmoonan@hotmail.com								
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms. Caroline Moonan								
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒						
Date of Inspection:	1	3	1	2	2	0	2	1	
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		15	PM		0			
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive Airside Business Park Swords Co. Dublin								
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	S. Taaffe 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	Cala's Cabin is a privately-owned sessional Early Years service which has been in operation since 2010. The service caters for pre-school children aged 2½ - 6 years with eligible children facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme daily from 9.00am to 12.00midday. School age children are not accommodated in the service.
Premises	Cala's Cabin is conducted from a single storey wooden cabin located in the garden to the rear of the registered provider's detached dwelling which is situated on a corner site in a housing estate on the outskirts of Drogheda in Co. Louth. One care room is provided on the premises, in addition to a hallway, sanitary accommodation for children and staff, a kitchenette and a sluice room. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is provided to the side of the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider and one staff member work directly with the children in the service on a daily basis. A relief staff member is available to cover in the event of unexpected staff absences.
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. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. 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 member 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:

The staff files maintained in relation to the core staff member and the relief staff member were viewed. The file for the registered provider was previously inspected and found to meet the regulatory requirement and therefore is not included in this inspection report.

(2)(a) and (b) There were 2 written and validated references available for the core staff member and the relief staff member.

(a) All 4 written references inspected were from past employers.

(b) Not applicable as none of the references reviewed were from sources other than a previous employer.

(c) Evidence of completed Garda vetting disclosures was available in respect of the core staff member and the relief staff member.

(d) Not applicable as supportive documentary evidence demonstrated that neither the core staff member nor the relief staff member had lived outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) The core staff and the relief staff member held appropriate childcare 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.
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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 inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.
- (3) On the day of inspection, the registered provider and the core staff member were working directly with the 15 pre-school children present, all of whom were attending on a sessional basis and were aged 2½ - 4 years.

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:

- (1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service taking cognisance that the inspectors' time in the service was reduced to minimise risk in respect of the on-going Covid-19 pandemic:

BASIC NEEDS:

- The registered provider and staff member responded to children using their name, observing and warmly engaging with the children and assisting any child that may need help. The registered provider and staff member worked directly with the children in the service on a daily basis, therefore providing familiarity and consistency of care to the children attending the service.
- The registered provider and staff member spoke warmly to and about the children during the inspection and both seemed very familiar with the children's likes and preferences.
- The children brought their own packed lunches from home to the service. On the day of inspection, the children enjoyed sandwiches, crackers, a variety of fruit and yogurt and water to drink for their lunch. The registered provider and staff member sat with the children as they ate which created a relaxed environment and promoted social interaction between the children and adults.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- Children were encouraged to use the toilet when necessary which promoted the children's independence, while staff responded promptly to any children who needed assistance.
- The children could take a break from activities or rest during the session on the large floor cushion provided in the library area.
- The children were engaging in outdoor play when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service on the morning of the inspection and were facilitated to play outdoors for a second time before the end of the session. The registered provider and staff member promoted children's independence and self-care skills when preparing to go outdoors, including when the children were putting on their coats, hats and gloves, and when using the toilet, washing hands, preparing and tidying up after the snack and tidying away after play activities. Assistance was provided by the adults when necessary.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- Toys and play equipment provided were age and stage appropriate and were readily available to children on low level shelving, which promoted freedom of choice for children.
- The pre-school room was laid out using designated play areas such as a home corner with play, real-life and recycled materials; a painting and art area; a construction area; a library area, and a range of play materials for tabletop activities including jigsaws, bricks, skittles, peg boards and small world animals, figurines and vehicles. The materials provided within the interest areas were appropriate and supported the type of play while also providing open ended play opportunities.
- A low-level sink with thermostatically controlled warm water was provided in the pre-school room with a watering can, boats and other floating toys placed on the draining board to support water play opportunities for the children.
- The fully enclosed garden located to the rear of the registered provider's home which adjoined the pre-school premises was used to facilitate outdoor play experiences for the children in attendance. Sections of the outdoor space was covered in grass, gravel, concrete pathways and paving slabs. A range of ride-on toys, a plastic playhouse, a plastic rocker and a low level slide were provided for the children.

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:

The inspector viewed the following infection control measures undertaken in the service to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children. The time the inspector spent in the premises was reduced in order to minimise risk, taking cognisance of the COVID-19 pandemic.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Signage was in place at the entrance to the premises reminding parents and visitors of the importance of social distancing and the procedures to be followed in the event that a child displayed symptoms of COVID-19.
- The premises, play equipment and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition and up to date documented cleaning schedules were on display which had been revised to incorporate guidance provided by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC). The registered provider and staff member described appropriate cleaning of the play materials and equipment undertaken daily.
- When asked, the registered provider and staff member accurately described the symptoms of COVID-19 and the isolation procedures to be followed in the event of an adult or child becoming unwell whilst attending the service. The entrance hallway was designated for this purpose.
- There was running hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel provided in the sanitary accommodation. Hand sanitiser gel containing 70% alcohol was provided in the hallway and care room to facilitate additional hand hygiene procedures to be undertaken.
- Appropriate hand hygiene procedures were observed to be carried out with children observed being facilitated to wash their hands before eating, after using the toilet and after outdoor play.
- The children's packed lunches supplied from home were refrigerated on arrival to the service which reduced the risk of bacteria growth in perishable food items.
- The registered provider and staff member confirmed that playdough was discarded after use to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

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 and the core staff member both held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training which ensured that a person trained in first aid for children was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. (2)(a) and (b) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location on the premises and was available at all times for the children in the event of an emergency.
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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 was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service. Fire drills were carried out monthly with the records indicating that the last fire drill took place on 05/11/2021. (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service, both of which were certified as having most recently been serviced on 10/08/2021. (4) The fire evacuation procedure was displayed in the pre-school room and hallway in the service which contained details in relation to the procedures to be conducted in the event of a fire.
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