

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH029					
Name of Service:	Cherryhill High-Scope Preschool					
Address of Service:	Cherryhill Mullaghey, Kells, Co. Meath					
Email Address:	patty.wilcox@live.ie					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms Patty Wilcox					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒			
Date of Inspection:	1	9	0	1	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		18	PM		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Family Resource Centre Commons Road Navan, Co. Meath					
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	AM Cunningham 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	Cherryhill High-Scope Pre-School was established in September 1989. The service operates from 09:00hrs to 12:00 hours offering Sessional Care and ECCE Scheme to children aged from 2 years to 6 years. The curriculum is High-Scope based which emphasises active participatory learning. The service can accommodate a maximum of 22 pre-school children.
Premises	The service is located in a self-contained single-story building situated adjacent to the registered providers home, located in the rural townland of Mullaghey outside Kells. A large, enclosed area is available for outdoor play. Pre-School children attending the service have access to two pre-school rooms
Staffing	The registered provider and two staff members work directly with the pre-school children.
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 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 registered provider confirmed there were two new staff employed since the last inspection. These files were reviewed on the day of inspection. Remaining staff files were reviewed at the previous inspection and met the regulatory requirements Of 9(2) & (4).

2(a) & (b) Four references available were from past employers.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available in respect of the two staff members.
(d) Police vetting was not required as the staff members had not lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.

(4) One staff member held an Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5.

Non-Compliance Information:

- (2)(a) Two of the references available for one staff member were not validated by the registered provider.
(4) One staff member providing direct care did not hold a childcare qualification.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

Following inspection, the Registered Provider tried to contact the referees to validate references. Since inspection the staff member no longer works for the service.

Preventive Action

All job applicants will be informed that all references must be validated before employment date.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

	Corrective Action This member of staff has completed 6 modules of Course: QQI Level 6 ECCE Advanced Certificate Childcare and the remaining two by June 22nd June 2022. Preventive Action Until then she is employed assisting qualified staff with their non-contact duties.
Summary Comment	The responses from the registered provider have been reviewed by the Inspectorate and addresses the non-compliances in Regulation 9.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) <i>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.</i> (3) <i>Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of <u>a sessional pre-school service</u> 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.</i>	
Compliance Information:	(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. (3) The adult/child ratio was correct. Three staff members were present with 18 pre-school children (aged between 3 years and 11 months to 5 years). An additional adult was also present.

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 the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service, taking cognisance that the time spent by the inspector in the premises was reduced in order to minimise risk, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic:

Basic Care Needs of the Children:

- Children spend most of the day in the outdoor area exploring their environment. Suitable outdoor clothing was available to the children.
- The children brought their own packed lunches with them to the service. On the day of inspection, the children enjoyed sandwiches, a variety of fruit and yogurt for their lunch in the outdoor area.
- The children's independence was encouraged as evidenced by staff supporting them as they opened their own yogurt and fruit containers. Staff pre-empted children's difficulties and were on hand if a child needed assistance and offered advice and affirmation once they had succeeded.
- The staff members sat at the children's level at snack time, encouraging conversation and extending interactions in a relaxed manner.
- The children were observed to use the bathroom independently and support was provided as required.
- The inspector observed the staff member interacting with the children in a respectful manner.
- Staff members demonstrated knowledge of the children's individual personalities and a sensitivity to each child's individual needs and preferences.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The pre-school rooms had low level shelving and areas of interest were well supported e.g., library area, home corner area, puzzle and blocks areas and art easel.
- A daily planner was available on the gate at the entrance to the preschool for parents to see activities for the week.
- The enclosed hard surface outdoor play area to the side of the premises was used on the day of inspection. Areas of interest were available here e.g., sand table, sheltered area for children to use in hot and wet weather, a mat with support equipment including garage and cars, and art easel. Children were observed happily engaged in bird watching with their own hand made binoculars. A grass area (not used on the day of inspection) was also available with additional support equipment e.g. sand pit, climbing frame,

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

blackboard, and logs for children to sit on. A shed was available to store the toys and equipment in the outdoor area.

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.

Infection Control:

- Information in relation to the symptoms of COVID-19, social distancing and self-isolation guidance was on display at the entrance to the service.
- There was running hot water, soap and paper hand towel at the sinks in the sanitary accommodation of the service. Hand sanitiser gel was provided in the service. Children were encouraged to wash their hands before lunch and after toileting.
- The service was visibly clean and up to date documented cleaning schedules were on display.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment including disposable aprons and suitable disposable gloves were available in the service.

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 service provided evidence that staff members trained in first aid for children were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) (a) & (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available.

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 written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. (b) A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment on the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced on the 5th March 2021. A record was available of the smoke alarms serviced on the 5th March 2021. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the entrance of the service.
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