

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH048					
Name of Service:	Elderdale Creche and Montessori					
Address of Service:	Elderdale Station Road Duleek Co. Meath					
Email Address:	aogduleek@gmail.com					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms Anne O Gorman					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒			
Date of Inspection:	2	8	0	4	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	11	PM			
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre Commons Road Navan Co. Meath					
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	C Tunney 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	Elderdale Creche & Montessori service is in operation since 2003. The service is privately run and located in a rural area outside Duleek, Co. Meath. The service is registered as a full day care service. Presently, the service provides a sessional pre-school education service for children from 2 years to 6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service operates from 09.30 hrs-12.30hrs each weekday.
Premises	The pre-school is facilitated in a purpose-built premise on ground floor level. The service comprises of one room and children's sanitary accommodation. The outdoor play area is located to the rear and side of the pre-school.
Staffing	The registered provider and one staff member are employed in the service. The two staff members hold a major award in Early Childhood Education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).
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, Person in Charge, 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.

Compliance Information:

- (1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present on arrival of the Inspector and was present for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)(a) & (b) Two written and appropriately validated references were available for both staff members.
- (c) Garda Vetting was available in respect of two adults.
- (d) Not applicable as the adults had not lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) Both staff members held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of 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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in the preschool room.
- (3) The adult/child ratio was correct; two staff members provided direct care to 11 pre-school children aged 2 years 10 months to 4 years 8 months.

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:

- The children's basic care needs were met on the day of inspection. The staff members were attentive to the children's needs. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their level of independence. Assistance was provided as required.
- The snack on the day of inspection consisted of a variety of healthy small sandwiches and fruit pieces prepared by parents. Snack time was unhurried and a social occasion where the children chatted about their ideas with the staff members.
- A quiet area beside the book area was available for children to rest or have quiet time.
- A focus on outdoor play was noted, children enjoyed the time on a activity centre, and enjoyed running. A planting activity where each child planted a sunflower took place.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- There was adequate space for the children to move freely both indoors and in the outdoor area.
- The furniture provided in the pre-school room was suitable, and age appropriate for the children attending with play materials accessible to the children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- A range of suitable play materials was available. The designated play areas were resourced to facilitate child-initiated play. Defined interest areas included a home corner area, arts and crafts, library area, construction area and a Montessori equipment area.
- A range of outdoor play material included slides, ride on cars, a planting 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 Registered Provider had taken measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children attending:

GENERAL SAFETY:

- The premises was safe and secure to prevent children exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised adults from entering the pre-school.
- Details of accidents and incidents were recorded accurately to ensure the safety of children attending.
- Steps were taken to ensure the general safety of the children such as cleaning agents were stored safely and out of reach of children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Steps were taken to prevent the spread of infection through the use of good environmental hygiene practices such as supervision of children's hand washing and cleaning of tables prior to eating.
- Perishable foods were stored in a fridge to prevent growth of poisonous bacteria.
- The standard of hygiene throughout the pre-school was satisfactory.

Non-Compliance Information:

INFECTION CONTROL:

1. Some of the play materials in the outdoor area were not in a clean condition such as the sand/water tray and the plastic playhouse.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

1. Both the sand pit and plastic playhouse were cleaned the evening of the inspection. The sand tray had not been in use at the time of inspection due to bad weather.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	Preventive Action Sand /Water tray and playhouse (Plastic) cleaned evening of the inspection. Clean Weekly during the summertime when in use.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider was accepted. The registered provider has stated the play materials in the outdoor area will be cleaned on a weekly basis going forward to ensure good infection prevention measures are in place to safeguard children attending 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— - is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and - is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.
Compliance Information:	(1) The registered provider ensured a person trained in First Aid Response was available to the children attending the pre-school service. (2) The first aid box available in the service was suitably equipped and stored in conspicuous location on the premises and available for the children in attendance, in the event of an emergency.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

	(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of— - any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and - 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 was maintained of fire drills that had taken place within the service; the date of the last fire drill was 17/04/2022. (b) An up-to-date record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises which were last serviced on the 30/08/2021 respectively. (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the service.

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information:

The registered provider ensured the pre-school service had a valid insurance certificate with an expiry date of 28th March 2023.