

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015OY069
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Name of Service:	Giggles Creche Limited
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Address of Service:	Kilmalogue Park Portarlinton Co. Offaly R32 CP80
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Email Address:	gigglesportarlinton@eircom.net
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Valerie Keating
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Type of Service Registered:	Full Day Care	✓
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Date of Inspection:	2	7	0	4	2	0	2	2
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	19	PM	5
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
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Inspection undertaken by:	D. Molloy
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 Creche Limited is an early years' service operating a full day care, part-time and sessional service to children aged 0 to 6 years. The service is owned and operated privately by the registered provider. The full day care opening hours are from 07.30-18.30 daily and the sessional service operates from 9am-12md. The service is located in the town of Portarlington County Offaly.
Premises	The service operates from a purpose-built single storey premises which is used for the sole purpose of operating an early years' service. An enclosed secure outdoor play facility is provided to the rear of the premises. The service has an entrance lobby, a hallway, three care rooms, an office, a kitchen, a designated sleeping room, three toilets and wash hand basins, 1 nappy changing facility with wash hand basin. On the day of inspection children were being cared for in two rooms the Montessori room, and the Toddler room, a third room was available for use as an additional reading room.
Staffing	In addition to the registered provider there were 4 staff working in the service. All staff held a recognised qualification from level 6-8 on 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. 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 children. 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."

Compliance Information:

Following review of the service files and further to discussion with the registered provider it was confirmed that three new staff members had been employed in the service since the last inspection.

(1) (a)
The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)
The registered provider facilitated the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (2)
The registered provider had ensured that each employee was suitable and competent. Records were available to show that the following was in place in respect of the new staff members.
- (a) consideration of references from person's past employer, and their most recent employer.
 - (b) consideration of references from a reputable source.
 - (c) consideration of the vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012.
 - (d) Police vetting from police authorities outside this state was not required.
- (4)
Staff working in the service and held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
- (6) (a)(b)
No staff member had signed a declaration on or before the 30th of June 2016 to the effect that they intended to retire from employment in a pre-school service.
- (6A)
One employee was working directly with children under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)scheme.

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 and procedures and statements of the service were in place including:
- Early Years Services Self-Assessment Checklist, staff Covid declaration statements, protocol for visitors and return to work safety protocol.
 - An Infection Control Policy in line with the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) Guidance for Settings Providing Childcare during the Covid-19 Pandemic was in place.
 - The hand washing policy reflected Covid-19 requirements.
 - The site-specific risk management policy had been revised in line with recent Covid -19 and was available in the service which included new recent Covid-19 recommendations.

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)
The correct adult to child ratio was maintained during the inspection.
- (2)
There were 19 children attending the service in the morning, and 5 in the afternoon. The age range of the children was aged between 11 months and 5 years, being cared for by 4 staff in addition to the registered provider. The registered provider facilitated the inspection.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

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:

- All food was prepared on site by staff, and meals were fresh and nutritious. Healthy eating was promoted, in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Breakfast was available on arrival and the children's main meal consisted of a baked ham, with vegetables and potatoes, snacks included sandwiches, fruit cheese and yogurts. Water and milk were served with meals. Younger children brought in some of their own food.
- Baby's soothers were labelled and stored correctly in individual boxes.
- It was observed that children were playing outdoors in the fresh air while being supervised by staff. Staff stated that children avail of outdoor play on a daily basis and that outdoor play forms part of their experience in the setting.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- Children were observed to be put to sleep in the designated sleeping room and were monitored while sleeping. Staff were well informed in relation to the up to date safe sleep guidelines and good practice.
- Indoors children had freedom of movement in the playroom and had access to cosy corners and rest areas. It was observed that some of the children made use of these.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The play rooms and hallway had been recently painted and decorated and were well maintained. The design of the playrooms and availability of free floor space floor allowed free play and freedom of movement.
- The rooms were well stocked with toys and equipment that was stored at children's height and laid out on the ground for the use of the younger children. Toys including blocks, bricks early learning sensory equipment was provided in the baby/ toddler. Baby mats and soft rugs were provided for children who were at the early and pre- walking stage, and space was available for children to creep in this room.
- In the Montessori room special interest areas were observed which enable children to be creative and imaginative in their play. Toys and equipment were maintained in a proper state of repair and were of good quality. These included, home corner, library and book area, arts and craft areas , construction play, sand and water area, sensory play, table top play. Interest areas were observed to be adaptable, versatile and welcoming to the children.
- The outdoor play area was securely fenced and offered different play areas for different age groups.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- It was observed that the younger children were nurtured, lifted, and held by adults and early walking was supported and positively encouraged.
- Independence was encouraged relative to each child's age and stage of development. Children were supported to take care of their own belongings including hats, coats, bags and to wash hands before lunch, after toilet use and following outdoor play.
- Parents/guardians were now allowed to enter the service following lifting of Covid-19 recommendations. It was noted that parents mainly remained outside at the collection point when dropping off children. Parents connection to the service was also encouraged, through phone calls, texting, and email communication.

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:

- Access to the kitchen was restricted and only adults entered the kitchen facility.
- There were two entrances to the service at the front and side door of the premises which were used by different groups of children. Both of these doors were safely secured through a controlled entry system which was operated from within the setting.
- Safe storage was provided, out of children's reach for cleaning agents and cleaning equipment.
- A pest control company was employed to protect the premises against infestation.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The premises was clean, and staff were observed cleaning surfaces following children's use.
- The play rooms, sanitary accommodations and nappy changing area were ventilated by means of openable windows.
- There was an adequate supply of paper hand towel and liquid soap in the sanitary accommodations. Hand sanitiser was available in wall mounted units at the entrance to the service and at locations throughout the premises. Personal protective equipment was available in the service.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

- An administration of medication policy had been devised and was available in the service. No medicine was administered during the inspection.

FIRE SAFETY:

The fire exit routes in the premises were 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) Staff were up to date in first aid training and a staff member qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) was available on the premises at all times. (2)(a) A fully equipped first aid box was available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the service. (b) A first aid box was available in the service but was not required during the inspection.
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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 for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 21.04.22 (b) A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced on 25.08.21 and the fire alarms were serviced on 07.12.2021. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.
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