

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 Kilmalogue Portarlinton Co. Offaly
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Email Address:	gigglesportarlinton@eircom.net
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms.Valerie Keating
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Type of service registered:	Full Day Care	☒
	Part Time	☐

Date(s) of Inspection:	0	4	0	9	2	0	2	0
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	14	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
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Inspection undertaken by :	Ms. D Molloy
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	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	N/A
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Description of Service	This full day care service is located in a housing estate in the town of Portarlinton, Co. Offaly. Children are aged between 14 months and 6 years. The service operates from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday. A school age service is provided in addition to the early years service. Giggles Creche Limited offers a part time and sessional service in addition to a full day care service. Giggles Creche Limited is operated by the registered provider.
Premises	Giggles Creche Limited is operated from a purpose built early years premises. Car parking is provided outside the walls of the service. A one way system of entry and exit has been introduced which makes use of 2 different entry points. The service consists of an entrance hallway, office, wobbler/toddler room, 2 pre-school rooms, nappy changing facilities, staff toilet and wash hand basin, 2 sanitary accommodations and wash hand basins for children's use, a dedicated sleeping room and a kitchen. An enclosed secure outdoor play area is provided to the rear of the building. The premises is used for the sole purpose of providing an early years service.
Staffing	There were 6 adults present on the day of inspection including the registered provider, 5 adults were working directly with the pre-school children.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years 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 announced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service and advance notice had been given to the service of the planned inspection. This minimised disruption to service provision while services focus on re-opening and familiarising staff and children with new ways of working. 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.
Additional Information	The age range of the children in the service on the day of inspection was from 14 months to 3 years.

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Acknowledgements

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, the person in charge, staff and acknowledges the 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.*
- (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;*

Compliance Information:

Following review of the service files and further to discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that 1 new member of staff employed in the service since the last inspection.

(2) The registered provider ensured that each employee was suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children.

(7) The registered provider ensured that all employees were appropriately supervised and provided with necessary training, in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5. The person in charge confirmed that all staff had received training in and a copy of recently revised policies, procedures and statements in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All staff were familiar with their responsibilities and their requirements under COVID-19 protocols.

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 required written policies, procedures and statements were in place in the service including: • Early Years Services Self Assessment Checklist. • Revised Infection Control Policy in line with HPSC (Health Protection Surveillance Centre) Guidance for Setting Providing Childcare during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Cleaning schedules were reviewed which showed that protocol was in place in relation to cleaning toys with specific mention of mouthed toys, cleaning of individual cots and hand washing policy and procedures. Cleaning schedules for the service both inside and out had also been reviewed and updated. • Procedures for drop off and collection of children had been reviewed and updated to ensure social distancing. Two entrances were operational, the side entrance and the front door entrance. Outside the service had been marked out to display required distancing for parents. Hand over was restricted to 1 parent/Child at a time. Staff had received copies of updated policies and procedures.
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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.*

Compliance Information:	(1) The registered provider ensured that at all times there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. In the morning it was observed that 5 adults were working directly with the 14 children. In the afternoon records showed that 4 adults were working directly with 10 children. (2) The inspection commenced at 10.15am at which time the following pod systems was in operation: • Pod 1, which accommodated 4 children aged 14 months to 2 years. Two staff were working directly with the children in this pod.
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Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels

- Pod 2, accommodated 10 children aged 2 years 8 months to 3+ years. Three staff were working with the children in this pod.

The person in charge facilitated the inspection and was available to supervise entry and exit of children.

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:

Children were being cared for in 2 play rooms. The outdoor play area was utilised by both groups during the inspection.

(1)(a) It was observed that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated throughout the inspection.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- Children were cared for in individual pods by the same adult each day. This helped foster formation of sustained relationships and continuity of care. The pods were designed by the person in charge to facilitate children's learning and development in terms of their developmental stage and care needs.
- All staff demonstrated sensitivity, warmth and positive regard for the children. Children were encouraged and their efforts were praised. Assistance was offered when necessary.
- Prior to reopening the registered provider had introduced a transition approach to reintroduce children to the service following the COVID-19 absence. Parents received information and pictures of the service while empty through social media and email communication. The new system of pods was explained and discussed with parents prior to introduction.
- Parents were informed that a new system of play in their pods would be introduced and children would spend as much time as possible in the outdoor play area.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- Each group had their own toys and resources available to them. Toys and resources had been divided up for daily use. A new system of toy rotation and resource management was in place, which was working well on the day of inspection.
- The practice of replenishing toys, sanitation and storage was repeated

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

each day.

- Each pod had defined interest areas which included easily washable kitchen utensils, shop, textured play, arts and crafts and toys for once off use.
- Soft seating which was available in both rooms which was easily cleanable was available for children's use should they wish to have a period of rest and relaxation.
- The large outdoor play area had been divided so the pods could remain separate when children were playing outdoors.

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:

It was observed that the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children were in place.

GENERAL SAFETY:

- The external doors and gateways were so secured to prevent unauthorized access or a child exiting unsupervised from the service.
- The cleaning agents were all stored out of reach for children.
- An accurate register was maintained of all children attending each day which could be used should COVID-19 tracing be required. Accurate staff records were maintained which could be utilised should COVID-19 tracing be required.
- Records were maintained for any person who entered and exited the building. Parents were not permitted inside the building and the inspector was the first outside person to enter the service since reopening.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Parents or guardians did not enter the service and social distancing was maintained by parents while dropping off and collecting children.
- A designated space was provided should a child need to isolate in the event of exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
- The service completed a fitness to attend questionnaire for each child which was documented and maintained.
- Additional facilities for hand washing and 6 hand sanitising were provided. A regulated supply of thermostatically controlled hot water to a maximum of 43°C was available for effective hand washing. Liquid soap, disposable hand towels and pedal bins were in place. Hand sanitisers were in place in each room.

Part VI - Safety

SAFE SLEEP:

- A designated sleep room was provided with 2 individual cots and 6 low beds were available for the older children's use. A system of sleeping checks was in place and accurate records were maintained.