

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018GY511
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Name of Service:	Happily Ever After
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Address of Service:	Tuam Community Centre, Bishop Street, Tuam, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H54 DK03
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Name of Registered Provider:	Claire McGrath, Sara Walsh
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	11/04/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	65	PM	47
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly and S. Meehan.
Title:	Early Years Inspectors.

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

The service is located in the urban town of Tuam, Co. Galway. The service operated a full day care service for pre-school children aged between 0 years to 6 years. The service is open daily from 07.30hrs to 18.30hrs

Staffing

The registered providers were the designated persons in charge and were present throughout the inspection.

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. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

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 the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 and 19; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 19,23 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings.

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Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re-occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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.*

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(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 registered providers were the designated persons in charge and there were named persons who were able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered providers were on the premises.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered providers, it was confirmed that there were 19 members of staff employed in the service.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2) (a) There were 30 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for adults working in the service.

(b) There were 8 references on files for adults that were supplied by reputable sources.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosures was available for 2 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) All the adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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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.

(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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On day one of the inspection, there were 65 pre-school children, attending the morning session and 47 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

(2) At 10.30 am on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.

- Toddlers room, there were 2 adults caring for 9 children aged between 16 months and 24 months.
- Playschool room, there was 2 adults caring for 11 children ages between 2 and 3 years of age.
- Baby room, there were 2 adults caring for 5 babies aged less than 14 months.
- Ecce , there was 1 adult caring for 19 children aged between 3 years and 4 years of age.
- Naoinra ,there were 2 adults caring for 21 children aged between 3years and 4 years of age.

(8)(a)

The staff rosters indicated that there were 2 staff members on the premises at all times.

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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, and

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS

- Soft seating was available in all of the playroom; children were observed using these areas after snacks times while were waiting for the rest of the children to finish lunch and on other occasions during the inspection. All of the areas were inviting and had activities suitable for the children to rest and relax. The soft seating in the playrooms were large enough for large number of children to be able sit in this area at any one time.
- The children in the service got an opportunity to use the outdoor play area on numerous occasions throughout the day. Each group of children were observed happily playing in this space throughout the inspection.
- The children aged between 1 and 2 years of age were put down to sleep in their dedicated cot room, which was adjacent to their playroom. On the day of inspection, a staff member stayed with the children until they were settled and then a staff member physically checked the children every 10 minutes and recorded the temperature of the room, colour and position of the child as they slept.
- The children aged over 2 years slept on stackable beds in a playroom .This room had stackable beds, each child had an allocated bed with sheets and a small blanket. A staff member stayed in the room with the children as they slept.

Non-Compliance Information

1. In the new nappy changing area in the Toddler room, there were no dividers between the nappy changing units to ensure that each child's dignity was respected at nappy changing.
2. There was no door in the cubicle of the children's sanitary area used by the children attending the upstairs ECCE playroom. The outer door leading into the sanitary remained open throughout the inspection, staff informed the inspectorate team, that children have in the past left this door open, while using the facilities. The dignity of the child was not respected.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. We are awaiting dividers to attach to the nappy changing table, to protect the dignity of the child. In the meantime, we will ensure that one nappy changing unit is used at a time, thus respecting protecting the child's dignity.
2. A door was erected in the cubicle of the children's sanitary area and staff will monitor and assist the children to ensure that is closed when in use ,thus protecting the dignity of the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 6th of May ,photographs of the newly erected door were submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions and the evidence submitted were reviewed and accepted . The non compliances identified under regulation 19 have been adequately addressed.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There was no door on the entrance to the staff room, children could have access to staff's personal items and household electrical items that may pose a risk to the children attending. This was highlighted on a previous inspection. (18/02/2023)

Infection Control:

2. Powdered infant formula for the young children in the Baby room was prepared on the premises by the staff and not prepared in accordance with the Food Safety Authority best practice guidance.
3. There was evidence of mould around the pipe work in the ceiling in the nappy changing area in the upstairs sanitary area, which may pose a risk to the children and staff using this area.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The original door was located and will be installed when treated and cleaned, this process is ongoing.
2. An information leaflet will be supplied to all new parents starting in the creche and all current parents have been informed of the Food safety Authority best practice guidance in making of infant formula.

Infection Control:

3. Work was completed on the removal of mould in the nappy changing area. In future all areas of the creche will be inspected more thoroughly and more often.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of the baby bottle warmer and the area surrounding the pipe work was submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions and the evidence submitted were reviewed. The non compliances identified under regulation 23, points 2 and 3 have been adequately addressed. The findings documented at point 1 remains non-compliant as evidence that the work has been completed has not been submitted.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. A number of interior wall areas had patches of peeling paint and marks where a putty like adhesive was used to stick posters/pictures and required repair. It is acknowledged that some areas were repainted, and the register providers are awaiting construction works to commence in the building.
 2. There was unfinished tile work in the staff toilet in the Toddler room area.
 3. The air vent in the sanitary area in the upstairs sanitary area, required cleaning. Dust as evident on the outer grid.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered providers stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- 1.2. We are awaiting works to be carried on the building, which will include tiling and painting . We will inspect all areas more frequently and carry out maintenance in a timely manner.
3. The air vent in our upstairs sanitary area was cleaned and will be monitored and cleaned as needed.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of the air vent was submitted.

Summary Comment

The non compliance identified under point 3 has been adequately addressed.

It is noted that a plan is in place to address points 1 & 2, however a date for completion has not been submitted.