

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier: TU2018LS506

Name of Service: Superkids Childcare Centre

Address of Service: De Vesci Court
Fairgreen
Portlaoise
Co. Laois

Email Address: email.superkids@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Sandra Lobanovska

Type of Service Registered: Full Day Care ☒

Date of Inspection: 0 2 0 2 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 37 PM 15

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate,
Tusla, Child and Family Agency,
Primary Care Centre,
Church Avenue,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Inspection undertaken by: K. Murphy
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	Established in 2018 the service is registered as a full day care service. The age range of children that can be enrolled in the service is 1 to 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The service operates between the hours of 07:30 and 18:30 on a Monday to Friday basis throughout the year. The service is operated by an independent provider as part of a multiple. A school aged childcare facility is provided.
Premises	The Early Years' Service is located in a purpose-built single storey premises. Five pre-school rooms, a sleep room, a kitchen, a staff room and an office are provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the service. On-site parking and set down facilities are available. The service is situated in a residential area on the outskirts of the town of Portlaoise, County Laois.
Staffing	The registered provider, eight childcare staff and the cook were present during the inspection. Adults working directly with children held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at level five, six or eight on the National Framework of Qualifications.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (Inspectorate) is the independent statutory regulator of early year's 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 year's 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. 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 co-operation 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.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (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."
- (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;

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Compliance Information:

(1) (a)

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

(b)

The registered provider was present during the inspection.

The registered provider stated that seven staff members were employed since the last inspection on 27 January 2020. The files of the seven staff members were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2) (a)

Validated written references from past employers were available in respect of the seven new staff members.

(b)

Not applicable, validated written references from past employers were available in respect of the seven new staff members.

(c)

Completed Garda Vetting disclosures were available in respect of the seven new staff members.

(d)

Police Vetting was available in respect of two new staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(3)

The procedures in respect (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) were carried out by the registered provider prior to the employment of new staff in the service.

(4)

The new staff members working directly with children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(6) (a)(b)

Not applicable, 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)

Not applicable, no staff member was working directly with children under the Access and Inclusion Model.

(7)(a)

Certification reviewed demonstrated that staff had completed infection control and return to work training sessions.

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 procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 were in place in the service. The following policies and procedures were reviewed; 1. Infection control policy revised in line with Health Protection Surveillance Centre guidance including the following; • Cleaning schedules. • Procedure for hand washing. • Procedure for cleaning and infection control. 2. Risk management policy. 3. Incident plan updated with COVID 19 information. 4. Procedure for drop off and collection of children attending the service. Parents and guardians were provided with updated information on COVID 19 requirements. Return to work and childcare forms were completed in respect of all staff and children.
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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) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection. (2) There were thirty-seven children attending the service being supervised directly by eight adults in designated play pods at the time of inspection.
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Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

Play Pods

Play pods	Number of staff	Number of Children
Toddler room (1) (1 -2.5 years)	2	6 children attending on a PT/FDC basis.
Pre-school junior (2) (3- 4 years)	1	10 children: 4 attending on a PT/FDC basis. 6 attending on a sessional basis.
Pre-school junior (3) (3- 4 years)	1	8 children: 2 attending on a PT/FDC basis. 6 attending on a sessional basis.
Pre-school senior (4) (4-5 years)	2	6 children: attending on a sessional basis.
Pre-school senior (5) (4-5 years)	2	7 children: 3 attending on a PT/FDC basis. 4 attending on a sessional basis.

(8)(a)

The roster showed that two adults were present on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

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:

(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS:

The children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development including self-feeding, self-toileting and caring for their belongings. Healthy eating was encouraged. A nutritious and varied menu plan was available.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Meals and snacks were freshly prepared on site for children attending on a part time or full day care basis. At approximately 12:00 a snack consisting of potato cakes with corn and carrot batons with milk to drink was served to the children. The main meal is served in the afternoon and consisted of chicken stir fry with rice. Soothers were stored in individually named containers. Children attending the toddler room slept after their snack. The sleeping children were checked every 10 minutes by an adult. There was good communication observed between the adults and children during nappy changing. Children enjoyed moving freely from one play experience to the next in the pre-school rooms and in the designated outdoor play areas supported by the adults.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

Adults were observed to be positive towards children evidenced by individual names used, eye contact and praise for children on completion of activities. Good teamwork between the staff members was observed during the inspection. The children were encouraged to be independent, and their choices were supported. Staff were observed to offer support and praise to each child for their involvement in activities. A handheld device with a software application recorded details relating to each child's daily activities including feeding, sleeping, nappy changing, events and activities. The information was then available to parents and guardians throughout the day.

PHYSICAL & MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

A range of developmentally appropriate, challenging, creative and enriching experiences were available for all children. The pre-school rooms were equipped with low level tables and chairs. Play equipment and materials were accessible to children and individual preferences were accommodated as to what and how long children wish to engage with specific chosen activities.

Materials included paint, play dough, dolls, dolls houses, buggies, puzzles, blocks, trucks, animals and fine motor skill toys including pegboards, jigsaws and shape sorters.

Children's artwork was noted and paper, crayons, paint and a variety of open-ended art materials were in plentiful supply.

The outdoor play areas provided interesting play opportunities for children. Toys and equipment included a climbing frame with slide, two newly installed mud kitchens, tyres and basketball hoop. Since the last inspection on 27 January 2020 two canopied areas have been installed to provide sheltered area space.

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:

The main entrance to the service was secure. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents and hand sanitiser.

INFECTION CONTROL:

Cleaning schedules were in place and maintained in the pre-school rooms and in the communal areas. Physical distancing measures were evident at the entrance to the service.

Systems were in place in the service to hold the necessary information of children and staff in play pods for contact tracing if required by the public health department.

There was an infection prevention and control policy available to inform practice that included cleaning schedules, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and practices for isolation of a child or adult in the event of either displaying symptoms of COVID 19.

There was an adequate supply of paper hand towel and liquid soap in the sanitary accommodation. Hand sanitiser was available throughout the premises.

Hand washing for children was facilitated before snack and mealtimes and after self-toileting.

The pre-school rooms, the sanitary accommodation and nappy changing area were ventilated by means of openable windows.

SAFE SLEEP:

A separate sleep room equipped with four standard cots was available in the service. Low level beds and soft furnishings were available in the service for any child who required rest. Digital evidence was in place to indicate that the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children was monitored every ten minutes.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

No medicine was administered at the time of the inspection. Temperature reducing medication was available if required by a child with a high temperature. In the sample of records reviewed there was evidence of signed parental consent in relation to administration of medication.

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)

A person qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) was available on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

A first aid box was stored in conspicuous location in each pre-school room in the service.

(b)

A first aid box was readily available to children in the pre-school service.

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. The last recorded fire drill took place on 20 December 2021.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms were serviced on 17 August 2021.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in conspicuous positions throughout the premises.