

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier: TU2018WW505

Name of Service: Little Munchkins Pre-school

Address of Service: Ballymoneen,
Avoca,
County Wicklow.
Y14F656

Email Address: littlemunchkinsavoca@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Alison Carter

Type of service registered: Sessional ☒

Date of Inspection: 0 2 0 6 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 10 PM N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Loughlinstown Health Centre,
Loughlinstown Drive,
Loughlinstown,
County Dublin

Inspection undertaken by : M Condon
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	Safety
------------	---------------------------------	--------

Conditions If Applicable Not applicable

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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).

Description of Service	This sessional service is privately operated and is located in the grounds of the registered provider's home in a rural area three kilometres from Avoca village in County Wicklow. On the day of inspection ten pre-school children were present. One play room, and a storage room with adjoining sanitary area is provided. The service has access to a large garden area. A sessional service operates from 9.30am to 12.30pm for pre-school children aged 2 years and 8 months of age to 5 years and is registered to cater for a maximum of 22 pre-school children.
Staffing	There are two staff employed, one of whom is the registered provider.
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 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 cooperation of the registered provider, staff member and 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:

(2) There were no new staff employed since the last Inspection.

(7)

(a) There was evidence that the registered provider and her staff member had reviewed and updated policies, procedures, and guidelines in preparation for the re-opening following closure due to Covid-19. Both staff members were knowledgeable regarding the changes made to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.

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:

Documentary evidence was available of the recently updated policies, procedures, and statements of the pre-school service. The registered provider confirmed that all parents had received a copy of the revised policies and each parent had signed to state that they had received and agreed to the changes.

Written notices were displayed at the entrance to the premises to remind parents regarding the updated procedures.

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 ten pre-school children present being supervised by two adults. At all times during the period of Inspection the minimum ratios of adults to children were maintained and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (3) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the morning.

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 of Infants & Children

- A healthy nutritious snack in line with the healthy eating policy of the service was provided for the children attending the service by their parents. This was enjoyed outdoors as a "picnic" by the children. Water was available for the children throughout the morning.
- Children's personal care and cleanliness was attended to by the adults in a timely fashion.
- Children were observed availing of fresh air and sunlight in the outdoor area during the morning.
- Hand washing was observed before lunch, after using the toilet and after outdoor play and children were supervised toileting independently.

Supporting Relationships around Children

- The staff members were observed showing warmth and sensitivity towards children in their care. Children were assisted as needed with activities undertaken, encouragement and praise were given as children made efforts to complete tasks and gain their independence.
- There was evidence that the service worked in partnership with parents. Collection time was staggered to allow for a verbal handover on the child's day which was given to the parents at the end of the session. Parents were encouraged to use other means for example phoning, texting in order to

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

communicate with the service.

- Transitions observed were explained and notice given prior to a change of activity.

Physical & Material Environment

- The playroom was spacious and comfortable. The play resources available to the children were accessible, organised and stored on low level shelving which allowed the children to select and replace items and materials of interest.
- There was an adequate amount of age-appropriate furniture and equipment in the play area. Areas of interest in the room included a home corner, shop, construction area, transport area and a library area.
- There was evidence of children's artwork on display in the room.

Outdoor area

- Outdoor play was included in the daily routine in the room and clothing for wet weather was available for each child. Three distinct areas were available;
A concrete area was used for bikes, scooters and sit-in cars and a planting area was located here with flowers and vegetables planted by the children. A soft tiled area in the middle section had a low-level slide available while a large wooden boat, sand play and water play were available in the grassed area. A covered section was also available for use in wet weather. An art table and picnic seating and a playhouse were available here.

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:

Infection Control

- There was a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water to support effective handwashing practices. There were several hand sanitizing dispensers positioned around the service, at the entrance, in the playroom and outdoors.
- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before lunch, after using the toilet and after outdoor play. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed in accordance with the service's infection control policies and procedures.
- The premises play equipment and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition. Up to date cleaning schedules were on display in the service.
- A separate area, 2 metre away from other people was identified to

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	accommodate a child showing symptoms of Covid-19. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was available if required. - When questioned the registered provider was familiar with the Covid-19 incident plan and steps to be implemented should she or a child become unwell while attending the service. Outings - It was confirmed by the registered provider that outings are presently not undertaken by the service. General Safety - The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons gaining access to the pre-school. - Safe storage was provided for cleaning agents and equipment, which were out of reach of children. - Documentary evidence was available of daily risk assessments being carried out in the service.
Non-Compliance Information:	General Safety A mains-operated smoke alarm was not available in the service. It is acknowledged that there was evidence that the installation of a mains-operated system is planned for next month when the service is closed for holidays.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	Corrective Action The fire safety officer has assessed the premises. Due to back log Fire safety officer will return on the 28th of July to commence the work. He will install a fire and smoke alarm in the Preschool and issue a certificate. Attached email to prove date of commencement. Preventive Action Smoke alarm will be checked on a monthly basis to ensure it remains in good working order.
Summary Comment:	Regulatory compliance remains outstanding however the corrective action stated by the registered provider when implemented will address the non-compliance in relation to Regulation 23. This regulation will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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:

(2)(a)

The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information:

(1) There was no evidence that a person trained in first aid for children was present and available to the pre-school children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(1) First aid was completed on the 15th May 2021 by 2 full time employees and 2 relief workers. The Instructor has been contacted to send out certificates on numerous occasions. Instructor has advised they will be posted next week.

Preventive Action

(1) The registered provider stated that they service will use a different instructor to complete first aid course in future. Review First Aid certificates on a 3 monthly basis to ensure that retraining is completed on time.

Summary Comment:

The actions stated by the registered provider and the evidence received have been considered by the inspector. The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 25.

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.

(1) 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) Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service; the last recorded fire drill took place on the 11th May 2021.

(b) The fire-fighting equipment was last serviced in June 2020.

A written record of the checking of battery-operated smoke alarms was available.

They were last checked in May 2021.

(2) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously in the room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information:

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 28th February 2022. The insurance provides cover for up to 22 children.